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15 January 2020
Vol 27 • Issue 3
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Police called to incident outside high school

POLICE are continuing to investigate an incident outside Up Holland High School in which a number of children suffered bruising and whiplash injuries after a car mounted the pavement.

Officers were called to the incident at Sandbrook Road at just after 3.30pm on Wednesday (January 8).

A 40-year-old woman from Skelmersdale arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving and assault has been bailed pending further enquiries.

Police are continuing to work closely with the school and patrols have been increased in the area around school opening and closing times.

Meanwhile, social media video footage has also appeared of a woman standing outside the school apparently inciting two girls to fight at around the same time.

West Lancs Inspector Ellie Kanoun said: "We are continuing to investigate the full circumstances of this incident and we have arrested and bailed a woman in connection with our enquiries.

"I appreciate that this incident has caused a great deal of upset and commentary in the local community and on social media and I would like to reassure people that while we are treating it extremely seriously the injuries caused to the small number of children are thankfully relatively minor.

"I would continue to appeal to anyone who witnessed the incident or who has any information to come forward and contact us."

Anyone with information is asked to call 101 quoting log number 887 of January 8.

Head teacher, Paul Scarborough said: "An incident happened outside the school gates as students were leaving at the end of the day. This was dealt with quickly by school staff who were nearby, and intervened to calm the situation and check on students' welfare before contacting the police.

"We take the safeguarding of our students very seriously and are helping the police with their inquiries."

A tentative step forward for town's proposed rail link...

STATION PLANS INCLUDED IN NEW STRATEGY

Report by **Henry James**

PLANS for Skelmersdale to get its own railway station took another tentative step forward this week when the efforts of Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and Lancashire County Council to investigate the possibility of extending the Merseyrail connection through to the town were highlighted in a new rail strategy.

The Liverpool City Region Long Term Rail Strategy is set to be discussed at a meeting of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority tomorrow (Thursday, January 16).

The aim of the strategy is "to provide a clear, focused, evidence-based approach to improvements on the rail network both within the Liverpool City Region but also the links into the region."

It states: "The LCR has worked with Lancashire County Council and Network Rail on the potential extension of the Merseyrail line through to Skelmersdale.

"A GRIP 3 study will be completed in 2020. Transforming Cities Funding has been made available to extend the Merseyrail services through to a new station at Headbolt Lane.

"GRIP 4 work is expected to commence early in 2020 on the Headbolt Lane option."

GRIP stands for Governance For Railway Investment Projects and is a control process set up by Network Rail to deliver projects on the operational railway.

One of the new Merseyrail trains which could serve the proposed Skelmersdale station.

Skelmersdale East County Councillor John Fillis said: "This is a positive announcement for Skelmersdale and the whole of West Lancashire.

"It also demonstrates that Skelmersdale will become a part of the economic jigsaw for the whole of the North West.

"The people of Skelmersdale have been very patient on this subject. The MP, Lancashire County Council and the borough council have all worked together on this plan. It has had support from all sides, regardless of their political make-up.

"What we will see as we get closer, is more and more investment into the town. The new network will not only take people out of the town, it will also bring people in as well.

"The new trains that Merseyrail are ordering will be dual powered, and will be able to be operated through the third rail and the electric overhead cable. The trains will be able to go beyond their current boundaries into the general network. They run on the third rail at the moment. This will be part of Skelmersdale becoming part of the Merseyrail network.

"The network will be linked to Manchester and Liverpool, which will mean that people will be able to travel to those destinations in about 35 minutes.

"The trains are electric, so they are more environmentally-friendly than cars.

"GRIP 3 is looking at the technical and financial viability of the scheme. Once it has passed this it will be passed to Transport For The North."

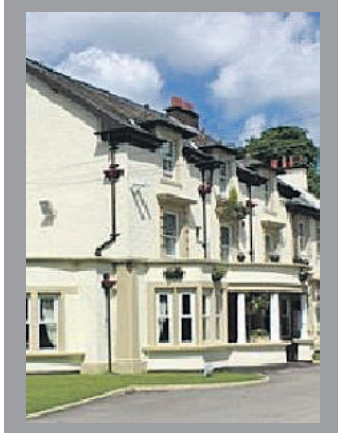
West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper said: "I have campaigned hard for many years for a railway station in the heart of Skelmersdale which will open up a world of economic and social opportunities for the town and its residents.

"I am pleased that Liverpool City Region and Merseytravel are including increased footfall levels at Liverpool Central based on the addition of Skelmersdale railway station to the network which acknowledges and adds confidence to the Prime Minister's promise that Skelmersdale railway station will be built.

"They have also identified Skelmersdale railway station as one of their major projects and are continuing to work with other partners including Lancashire County Council and Network Rail on the GRIP stages and the Strategic Outline Business Case during 2020 to make it a reality."

INSIDE THIS WEEK...

Anger at dog mess on streets



Yes' to hotel extension

CROSSWORD
See Page 30

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Hospital event part of drive to recruit 100 extra nurses

THE Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust is hosting a recruitment event as part of a drive to hire an additional 100 nurses.

Registered nurses and final-year nursing students are invited to attend the event to be held in the Clinical Education Centre at Southport Hospital from 11am to 3pm on Saturday, January 25.

The trust is especially keen to speak to anyone wanting to return to the organisation, those looking for flexible work patterns and anyone keen for a rotational post.

During the recruitment event teams will be on hand to answer questions about different departments and what it is like to work at the trust.

Advice will be available about career development and training and NHS professionals will also be on hand for anyone looking for temporary roles with the nursing bank.

Director of nursing, midwifery and therapies, Juliette Cosgrove, said: "We find recruitment events this like make the job application process easier for busy nurses or students. You can just pop along for an hour or so and potentially go home with a job offer.

"We are in a much stronger position now than in recent years, with increased investment in staffing, facilities and our buildings, which will help us to improve our service to match increasing demands. We are keen to talk to nurses in the area about the opportunities ahead for our trust and staff."

Interested candidates can just turn up on the day or book in advance if that is more convenient. Call 01695 656586 to speak to Karen who will be happy to help and answer any questions.

Registered nurses and final-year students are being invited to attend hospital trust's latest recruitment event.

Unexpected hazards of museum collections!

FROGS, firearms and flames will be the subject of the next meeting of the Ormskirk District Historical Society at Four Lane Ends Mission, Skelmersdale Road, Bickerstaffe on Monday, January 20.

Guest speaker, Heather C. Davies will give a talk on those and other unexpected hazards of museum collections, including radioactive breakfast ware and poisoned wallpaper!

The meeting starts at 7.30pm and admission is £3 for visitors and free for students.

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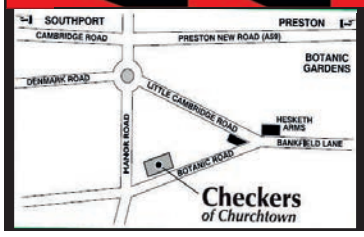

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OWL in call to reduce councillors' allowances

'Move will save £50,000 a year', claim - but Labour say independent group leader helped to set current rate!

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Councillor Ian Moran

OWL Councillor Adrian Owens.

INDEPENDENT group Our West Lancashire are calling for borough councillors' basic allowances to be reduced to bring them in line with the county average.

OWL say the current figure, set at £4,842, is the highest in Lancashire and claim that adopting the average rate of £3,924.20 would make an annual saving of almost £50,000 at a time when more than 30 council employees are facing redundancy.

However, the ruling Labour group say that West Lancs councillors do not receive other cash benefits that members of other councils in the county do, and claim that more jobs have been created at the authority than have been lost.

Making public their response to a questionnaire from the Independent Remuneration Panel, which sets the allowance rate, OWL said West Lancs' was "the highest of any Lancashire borough council and has been so for almost 20 years."

They added that their proposals would make a saving of almost £50,000 a year at a time when approximately 38 council employees face voluntary or compulsory redundancy and claimed they had the support of 86.5% of local residents in a survey held in October last year.

In a subsequent statement the group added: "Sadly, to date, neither the Labour or Conservative groups have published their submissions to the panel and so the public do not know whether those councillors are seeking an increase in their pay at this time when council staff are losing their jobs."

Council leader, Councillor Ian Moran, responded by saying that such reviews into councillors' allowances were not usually shared with the press but added that Labour had never asked for an increase.

He said that West Lancs councillors do not accept a range of other allowances - such as for being committee and shadow cabinet members - which those in other authorities do.

And pointing out that the current rate was set during a Conservative-led council when OWL leader, Councillor Adrian Owens, was the deputy leader and finance spokesperson, he said the allowance goes part way to compensate councillors in employment for loss of earnings while carrying out civic duties.

On the subject of the proposed redundancies, Cllr. Moran said these were part of a restructuring of council services which will also create more than 40 jobs.

Governed

He said: "We have never asked for an increase in basic allowance. When it has been recommended in the past we have turned it down.

"The current rate was set when Adrian Owens was deputy leader of the council and when he was finance spokesperson for the Conservative council. If he thinks it is too high it was him who set it.

"Cllr. Owens also has a very short memory. He made over 50 people redundant when he was deputy leader and never once raised the prospect of cutting allowances then."

A spokesman for the council said the redundancies were part of the re-organisation of the council and not connected to the level of councillors' allowances.

He added: "Councillors' allowances are governed by the recommendations of the Independent Review Panel. The basic allowance has been the same since 2009 and in 2015 it was frozen for four years on the recommendation of the IRP when their report considered comparisons with other local authorities.

"A report relating to allowances for 2020/2021 will be considered at the council meeting on February 26. This will set out the IRP's latest recommendations, which will relate specifically to circumstances applying to West Lancashire while considering comparisons with other local authorities, not only in relation to basic allowance but also the level and variety of special responsibility allowances across Lancashire.

"In some authorities these are higher in number and higher in rates. The IRP has not received any requests to increase the basic allowance for councillors for 2020/21."

The leader of West Lancs Conservatives, Councillor David Westley, has been asked to comment on OWL's proposal.

Man, 33, charged over fatal crash on M58

A MAN has appeared at Preston Magistrates Court charged with causing death by dangerous driving following a crash on the M58 in West Lancashire last year.

Anne Kerr, 50, from Southport and 14-year-old Joe Cairns, from Radcliffe, Greater Manchester, suffered fatal injuries in the accident involving a number of vehicles including an HGV and a minibus.

James Majury (33) of Milton Road, Coppull, who was driving a Mercedes skip loader was charged with two counts of causing death by dangerous driving and five counts of causing serious injury.

He entered no plea at the magistrates court on Monday, January 13 and will now appear at Preston Crown Court on Tuesday, February 11.

The accident occurred at about 8.45am on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 on the westbound carriageway of the motorway close to junction 3.

Mrs Kerr was a member of staff at Pontville School in Ormskirk, which caters for pupils with special educational needs. Joe Cairns was a pupil at the school. Both were travelling in the minibus and died at the scene.

Teenager needed surgery after footpath stabbing

A TEENAGE boy needed surgery after being stabbed over the weekend of January 4 and 5 while walking along a footpath in Firbeck, Skelmersdale with his girlfriend.

The 16-year-old victim was taken to hospital for treatment before being released on Thursday, January 9.

Another 16-year-old male, arrested on Monday, January 6 and charged in connection with this incident, is currently awaiting sentencing.

A spokesman for Skelmersdale Police said: "We'd like to reassure everyone that we are doing our utmost to tackle knife crime in Skelmersdale, but appeal to the public to talk to your children about the importance of personal safety and being a responsible member of the community.

"We remind everyone that there are two permanent knife amnesty bins located at Tanhouse Community Centre and Digmoor Community Centre. You can surrender any weapons, completely anonymously, without having to enter the centres, no questions asked."

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Local Freemasons donate £50k to relief fund for drought victims

Report by **Kenny Parker**

FREEMASONS in West Lancashire have donated £50,000 to a relief fund for people at risk of starvation in southern Africa following the worst drought in the region for 35 years.

The drought, caused by record high temperatures and low rainfall, could affect an estimated 45 million people in Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Namibia,Zambia and Zimbabwe.

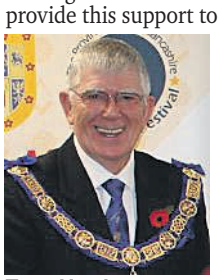
The Victoria Falls, which is located on the Zambia and Zimbabwe border has become a trickle and Lake Kariba, which also runs along the border to the two countries and a critical water source for both, is only 16 per cent full. An estimated 70 per cent of rural water sources in Zimbabwe have also dried up.

Plan International UK is supplying emergency food packs and urgent humanitarian assistance to those at risk of starvation due to the drought and has just received £50,000 from West Lancashire Freemasons.

West Lancashire Freemasons follow the pre-1974 boundary for Lancashire, so the branch also includes Sefton.

The grant was made through the Masonic Charitable Foundation, the grant making charity for freesmasons of England and Wales.

Rose Caldwell, chief executive of Plan International UK, said: "We're very grateful for this generous grant which will allow Plan International to reach thousands of people suffering from severe shortages of food. It is critical that we act now to provide this support to those most at risk"



Tony Harrison.

Tony Harrison, leader of West Lancashire Freemasons said: "I'm very pleased we have been able to help Plan International with their relief efforts in Southern Africa. It's clear that millions of people are at risk of a serious lack of food and clean water.

"This is a desperate situation and Plan International UK and the other organisations helping on the ground need all the support we in the outside world can offer."

Destroyed by drought - Mozambique farmland

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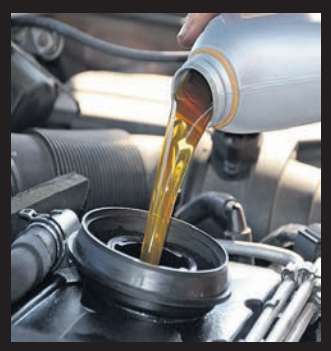

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Citizens Advice team offering money and energy-saving tips

CITIZENS Advice Lancashire will be helping people in West Lancashire to reduce their energy bills and save money as part of Big Energy Saving Week (January 20 to 26).

Local staff and volunteers will be running sessions to help people take control of their energy usage, reduce their household bills and make sure they are getting the best deal.

Residents are being invited to go along and find out how they can benefit at two sessions to be held in Skelmersdale.

These will be at the West Lancs Digital Help Centre, Unit 49, the Concourse shopping centre from 10am to 3pm on Wednesday, January 22 and from 10am to 2pm on Saturday, January 25.

Citizens Advice says new research has revealed a significant gap in consumer understanding about managing household energy use and the simple steps people can take to reduce their carbon footprint.

The survey, conducted by Citizens Advice and the Energy Saving Trust, shows that more than a third (36%) of British households have not made changes to their energy usage at home in recent years.

Chief executive of Citizens Advice Lancashire, Diane Gradwell.

That's 9.7m households that experts say need more help and encouragement with ways to save money and reduce their household emissions.

To support people make those changes Citizens Advice, Energy Saving Trust and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) are launching an expert-approved list of '20 ways to save' for Big Energy Saving Week 2020. The organisations are urging people to take a look and see how small changes can make a big difference.

Four changes which together could potentially save households £100 per year and help cut carbon emissions are:

- Turning your thermostat down by one degree.
- Changing all your lightbulbs to LEDs.
- Turning appliances off rather than keeping them on standby.
- Only using the right amount of water in your kettle.

Chief executive of Citizens Advice Lancashire, Diane Gradwell, said: "Big Energy Saving Week aims to put money in your pocket and help the planet.

"Citizens Advice Lancashire has lots of information and advice on how to save energy and cut household bills. This could range from everyday actions, such as reducing how much water you put in the kettle, to bigger projects like insulating your home.

"Our advisors and volunteers will also be able to help with all your queries about saving energy and money, including switching to a cheaper energy tariff, or accessing extra grants and benefits."

Sewing Rooms awarded funding to host creative project sessions for new and expectant mums

THE Sewing Rooms has been awarded funding from the Well Skelmersdale initiative to finance a creative project for expectant and new mums in the town.

Women taking part in the scheme at the social enterprise based in Gardiners Place, Gillibrands will be able to make tummy time and massages mats for their new arrivals.

Co-founder of The Sewing Rooms, Paula Gamester, explained: "This project is aimed at pregnant women and those who have recently delivered babies who will be invited to The Sewing Rooms to meet other new and expectant mums and start to connect with each other.

"The aim is to encourage the women to demonstrate their creativity by making a tummy time mat and massage mat for their new baby.

"The sessions will be led by our expert tutor, Michelle and participants don't need prior experience of sewing.

"The sessions are free and funded by Well Skelmersdale and we will provide all the materials needed.

Paula Gamester

"Tummy time mats are a great way for a new baby to spend time on their tummies while they strengthen their core muscles."

The second phase of the project is baby massage sessions where new mums will use the tummy time mats they have made and learn how to gently massage their baby.

Paula added: "Studies have shown that routine touch and massage can lead to improved physiological, cognitive, emotional and social development.

"Specifically, routine baby massage has even been shown to improve mental development and increase alertness and attentiveness. Baby's first emotional bonds are built from physical contact, and these serve as the foundation for emotional and intellectual development later in life.

"The touch between a mother and her baby brings them emotionally close - a process known as bonding or attachment.

"We are so excited about this worthwhile and innovative project and look forward to welcoming our new mums to The Sewing Rooms."

The sessions, running from 10am to noon, will be held on Tuesdays starting on February 4. Babies are welcome too.

For more information contact Paula on 01695 550 772.

Councillor says ANPR car parking enforcement operation at retirement housing scheme doesn't have planning permission

A BOROUGH councillor is calling for car parking restriction enforcement by Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) at a retirement living scheme in West Lancs to be suspended immediately.

Skelmersdale North Councillor Neil Furey believes the restrictions at Your Housing Group"s Brookside development in Ormskirk have been started without planning permission from the local authority.

Cllr. Furey said: "I expect people will be concerned to learn that Parking Eye is at it again. They didn't bother to obtain planning permission from West Lancashire Borough Council for 11 signs advertising car parking restrictions at this site.

"This is absolutely typical of the enforcement industry and particularly Parking Eye. Who simply cannot wait to target motorists with their £100 parking charge notices.

"Not only have the 11 signs been erected without planning permission, the advertised car parking restrictions are inaccurate.

The ANPR camera and signage at Brookside Retirement Living Scheme.

"A 20-minute period has been allocated by Your Housing Group for vehicles 'dropping off' or delivering at the site but there is no mention of this arrangement on the Parking Eye signage.

"I understand a number of 'fines' have already been issued incorrectly to some visitors, including a courier who was issued with a £100 penalty for delivering a parcel to a Brookside resident!

"I will be calling for ANPR car parking enforcement to be suspended immediately at Brookside Retirement Living Scheme. In addition, I will calling for Parking Eye to refund any parking fines issued to motorists without delay."

Andy Hodson, service manager at Your Housing Group, said: "Residents requested a parking company to monitor the private car park at Brookside due to not being able to park at their own home as members of the public were using the car park.

"We will ensure Parking Eye has all appropriate permissions and correct signage is in place."

Parking Eye has been contacted for comment.

Today is the last day for online primary school place applications

PARENTS are reminded that the closing date for online primary school place applications is today (Wednesday, January 15).

The quickest and easiest way to apply is online via Lancashire County Council's website. Last year 95% of parents used this method.

Parents need to submit an application form for all children starting school, even if the child already has an older brother or sister at their preferred school.

For more information go to www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools.

You can also call 0300 123 6707, between 8am and 5pm.

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Pet store raises nearly £7,000 for animal rescue centre

STAFF and customers at Pets At Home in Burscough have raised nearly £7,000 for Carla Lane Animals In Need as part of the store group's national charity Support For Adoption For Pets which provides cash for animal rescue centres across the country.

The Carla Lane centre in Melling, was the Burscough store's 2019 'Charity of the year.'

Events during the year at the Ringtail Retail park store raised £2,764 and a further £4,152 was raised during its Christmas Santa Paws appeal.

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Witness appeal after attempted robbery leaves victim with facial injuries

LANCASHIRE Police are appealing for witnesses following an attempted robbery in Ormskirk which left a man with injuries to his face.

The incident happened on Friday, December 27 between 10.30 and 10.45pm.

The victim, a man in his 50s, was walking his dog on the field behind Nursery Avenue when he was approached by a group of people described as being in their late teens to early 20s.

One of the group demanded the victim give him money and hit him across the face resulting in injuries.

The victim defended himself and the group ran off in the direction of a footpath which leads to both Station Approach and Old Boundary Way.

One member of the group is described as mixed race male, in his late teens, of slim build and around 5ft 11in tall. He was wearing a black hoodie with the hood up and black cap underneath, black tracksuit pants and black trainers.

A second is described as being a white male, of slim build, 5ft 8in tall with blond, straight hair. He was wearing a deerstalker hat and a blue coloured body warmer.

Another member of the group was a white female with blonde hair. She was wearing a dark coloured body warmer.

DC Danny Gardner of Ormskirk Police said: "This was a terrifying experience for the man who should have been safe walking his dog.

"We need to find the people responsible and would appeal to anyone who saw anything suspicious or witnessed the incident itself, to come forward."

Anyone with information can call police on 101 quoting crime number 04/222443/19. Alternatively independent charity Crimestoppers can be contacted anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Mere loses bug hotel crown!

MARTIN Mere Wetland Centre is no longer the proud holder of the title 'world's biggest bug hotel'!

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust reserve in Burscough was bestowed the title by world records compiler Guinness in September, 2017 after local schools, businesses and thousands of visitors helped to create the conservation attraction consisting of 720 boxes filled with straw and bamboo, occupying 18.46 cubic metres and housing leafcutter bees, mason bees, spiders, moths, a peacock butterfly, a frog and a bat!

However officials have now learned that their record was actually beaten last May by a youth group in Germany, which made a bug hotel measuring a massive 54.61 cubic metres!

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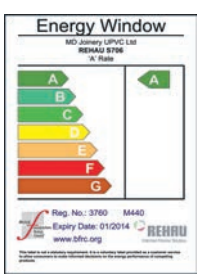

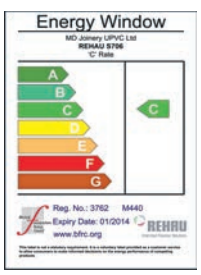

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Lecturer celebrates master's success

A LECTURER at West Lancashire College is celebrating after achieving a master's degree in Education and Social Justice from Lancaster University.

Catherine Shiel *(pictured)*, business studies lecturer at the Skelmersdale-based college, has been studying the new programme, which is delivered 100% online, for the last two years.

She chose the course as she wanted to develop research expertise and knowledge of social justice issues in education systems, engaging and learning from students and tutors from a range of continents and countries.

Catherine said: "Studying for my master's over the last two years has given me the opportunity to reflect on my practice in a way I never imagined. I have developed my knowledge by exploring new areas of research and writing in teaching, learning and curriculum design.

"The programme has given me the confidence to make improvements to my own practice that are benefiting my students and improving their learning experience."

A spokesperson for West Lancashire College said: "Congratulations Catherine - staff and students at college are very proud of you!"

Councillors grant conditional approval for Barnes Road site homes development

CONTROVERSIAL proposals to build 60 two-storey residential properties at the site of the former playing fields at Barnes Road, Skelmersdale have been granted conditional approval.

Council officers had recommended the development should be given the go-ahead, subject to certain conditions, and councillors duly voted to do so at a meeting of West Lancs Council's planning committee on Thursday, January 9.

The conditions included that the development must start "not later than the expiration of three years beginning with the date of the permission"; that the development shall be carried out as shown in the submitted plans; and that no development shall start until full details and specification of the allotment and community uses have been submitted.

An amendment was made to the condition about the areas for a site compound. There was also an amendment to a condition involving the Highway Authority. This now states: "No development shall commence until the developer together with a member of staff from the Highway Authority completes an inspection of the local highway network (full length of Barnes Road) to establish the structural integrity of the highway.

The site of the proposed redevelopment.

"This survey shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. A similar survey shall be carried out within one month of the completion of the last house and the developer shall make good any damage to the road to return it to the pre-construction situation."

The reason cited for this condition was to "maintain the condition of the local highway network in the interest of highway safety."

The application had been deferred when it was first heard at the planning committee last October.

A total of 10 occupants from nearby properties had objected to the proposals.

Committee green light for hotel's plan for extension on Green Belt land

PLANS to extend a West Lancs hotel using Green Belt land were given the go-ahead by members of the borough council's planning committee at their meeting on Thursday, January 9.

The owners of the Briars Hall Hotel in Lathom were seeking permission to build an L-shaped extension on undeveloped grass land to the west of the main hotel and to the edge of the woodland and brook, creating 22 extra bedrooms to add to its existing 25 rooms.

They said the proposed development would enable the hotel to provide accommodation with disabled access as the current bedrooms are on the first floor and only accessible by stairs.

Currently employing around 25 full-time staff and an additional 15 or more part-time for large functions, hotel bosses said the proposals could create a further 10 full-time and 20 part-time posts.

Briars Hall Hotel.

The hotel in Briars Lane, also applied to build a single-storey addition to the existing kitchen and a single-storey, flat-roofed events space linking to the existing function facilities.

In her report to the committee, Heidi McDougall, the council's corporate director of place and community, recommended that the plans be approved despite the fact the development would cause "significant harm" to Green Belt. She said the economic case put forward to ensure the viability of the hotel and protect/boost local employment would bring significant benefits and outweigh the loss of Green Belt.

Community Singers seek new voices

A GROUP of vocalists who entertain at care homes, nursing homes and various other venues in West Lancashire is seeking new recruits.

The Skelmersdale Community Singers perform a varied programme with songs ranging favourites from the 1940s right to numbers from musicals of the 1960s to 1980s.

The group is open to both male and female singers and anyone wishing to join is welcome to go along to practice evenings any Tuesday from 6.30 to 8.30pm at the Ecumenical Centre, Firbeck.

For more information call Hazel on 01695 773796 or leave a message on the Skelmersdale Community Singers' Facebook page.

Visitors inspect the many varieties on offer at a previous Potato Day at the Concourse shopping centre.

Annual Potato Day returns to Concourse

THE West Lancashire Allotments Federation (WLAF) has announced that its eighth annual Potato Day will take place at the Concourse shopping centre in Skelmersdale on Saturday, February 1 between 10am and 3pm.

This year's event has been organised in conjunction with Brighter Blooms Nursery of Preston and customers will be able to choose from around 100 varieties of potatoes. Also available will be seeds, onions, garlic, soft fruit bushes and fruit trees and the chance to discuss all things related to growing with members of the federation.

Meanwhile all connected with the WLAF would like to thank the management of the Concourse for once again offering them the opportunity to promote its work and the benefits of allotments.

For further information email wlafsecretary@outlook.com.

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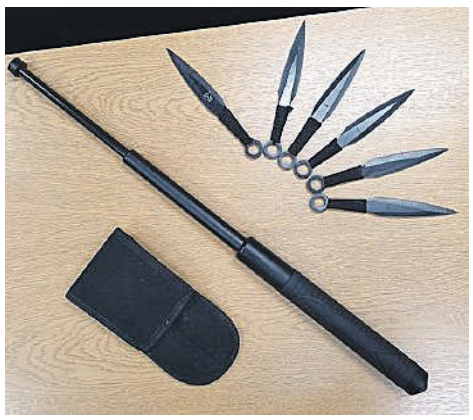
Knives and baton seized from man in Ormskirk during Task Force stop and search exercise



OFFICERS from the West Lancashire Neighbourhood Task Force seized throwing knives and a baton from a man in Ormskirk during a routine stop and search exercise on Friday, January 3.

Posting on social media, Ormskirk and Burscough Police wrote: "During a stop search this evening, officers from West Lancs Task Force have seized this baton and these throwing knives (pictured) from a male in Ormskirk.

"Following interview in relation to the matter the owner will have his day in court."

The dedicated task force, made up of four officers, was launched at the start of November to tackle issues including drug-dealing, anti-social behaviour and burglary, as well as beating organised crime group activity and targeting outstanding offenders.

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County council launches new campaign to recruit fosters carers and help change a local child's life

Report by **Henry James**

PEOPLE who could change a local child's life by becoming foster carers are being urged to come forward as part of a new campaign launched this week by Lancashire County Council.

With around 20 new children coming into care in the county each week and needing urgent foster care placements, the campaign is aimed at people who can help ensure youngsters stay in their communities.

County Councillor Phillippa Williamson, Lancashir's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "We always try to place children with our own foster carers, but the high demand for places does make this challenging to achieve.

"While some children will always need to be placed away from the county for safeguarding reasons, or can be looked after by family, we want to ensure others get the opportunity to stay local."

The campaign, which launched on Monday (January 13) is being promoted in many ways including on billboards, and on social media channels.

It highlights the need for more foster carers and the incredible impact they can make on a child or young person at a time when it is really needed, while also enriching their own lives.

Lancashire County Council is once again seeking foster carers who can help to change the lives of local children in urgent need of placements.

The latest statistics available from March 2019 show that 76.7% of children in care were placed within the authority area, compared to the national 58%.

Secure

Cllr. Williamson added: "It can make all the difference if children can stay locally. When children cannot stay with their own families, being in foster care in their local area can offer some the best possible chance of a happy and secure future.

"By maintaining local links, the child can still go to the same school and keep routines with friends and hobbies. Ideally, we want to keep them close to home in secure placements, supporting them to return to their families when appropriate.

"Children are only placed outside of our area if it is in their best interests, for example to live with extended family members, because they need a specialist placement or because there is a foster placement well matched to their needs."

New foster carers can expect to receive between £244 and £421 per week for each child they care for.

For more information about becoming a foster carer or to find out more about the campaign, call the fostering recruitment team on 0300 123 6723 or visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/fostering

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Local band strike a chord with crowd at German gigs

A SKELMERSDALE band who have been together for just nine months have returned home after appearing in two sold-out gigs in Germany over the Christmas period.

Hyena - who describe themselves as an alternative indie rock band - played at live music venue, Riffelhof Burgrieden in Baden-Württemberg on December 26 and 27.

Made up of Chris Pate (guitar/vocals, and formerly of the Arkanes); Alex Burnell (bass guitar and formerly with Element and Sa-Da-Ko); and Gary Darley (drums and formerly of Around the Bend) Hyena was formed by Chris in March last year.

Described as "making waves in the northern music scene", the lads have built up a faithful following and are said to be gaining the respect of promoters and venues alike.

While boasting their own distinct identity, they admit to being influenced by the likes of Kasabian, Jack White, Wolf Mother, Muse and Led Zeppelin.

Describing their German trip, Alex Burnell said: "There were 500 people at both shows and it was a real honour to play such a high-profile show considering we have only been together a short while.

"The audience got into our music straight away and were chanting and clapping.

"We'd like to thank every single person who has come to one of our shows and also the promoters and the venues that have given us an opportunity."

Residents' fury over increasing dog mess on town's streets

Report by **Henry James**

RESIDENTS in Skelmersdale have voiced concerns about the increasing amount of dog fouling in the town.

Reader Janine Musgrove was prompted to contact the Champion on the issue, writing: "The state of the paths in Skelmersdale is disgusting. Something needs to be done about the sheer amount of dog poo along every single path.

"I have now taken to driving out of Skelmersdale to walk my dog on paths that are clean and faeces-free!

"Not only are there not enough bins but there is not enough being done to deter bad dog owners from letting their dog foul in the middle of every path for kids to walk in!

"It is also disgusting to see endless dog poo bags hanging inside bushes because people can't be bothered to take them home - also due to a lack of bins.

"Why doesn't the council do something about the issue instead of letting it get to this disgusting state!"

Another reader, who wished to remain anonymous, contacted us about about the dog fouling on the pavements in Holland Park.

Champion readers say irresponsible dog owners are ignoring signs like these and allowing their pets to foul the town's pavements.

He wrote: "For almost 12 months now, I have witnessed the increase of dog excrement on the pavements and grassed areas. I am a dog owner who cleans up after my dog. There are many that don't.

"I have lost count of the amount of times I have had to clear up after these irresponsible dog owners. I have often challenged both young and adult walkers who clearly do not have any respect and let their dog foul and just walk on.

"I have reported this to the local council whose response is: 'There's nothing we can do,' even though I have provided details of 'offending' dogs' breed colour and address.

"I am also sick of having to dodge piles of dog excrement on the pavement, especially in the hours of darkness. Do these people not know what a mess is being left behind and the potential harm to people's health?"

A spokesman for West Lancs Council responded: "Dog owners are responsible for disposing of their dog's mess appropriately. The only correct way to do this is to place the waste in a litter bin as these can also be used to dispose of dog mess.

"Owners who do not dispose of dog mess correctly can be issued with a fixed penalty notice or be taken to court.

"We will step up patrols in the Skelmersdale area, and we do act upon complaints and information we receive from the public.

"We would advise residents to log all dog fouling incidents through the online customer service portal on the council website. We are in the process of reviewing where bins are located and will be using the information in our systems to identify the best places to site bins.

"The council has put signage up in the Holland Park area and written to addresses provided to remind dog owners of their responsibilities."

Mum's shaping up for an active 2020 after shedding nine stone

A MUM from Skelmersdale has been voted her Slimming World group's Miss Slinky after shedding a massive nine stone in time for the recent Christmas party season.

Rebecca Healey's achievement wowed her fellow slimmers as she went from dress size 22 to 8!

Now the 28-year-old is targeting a healthier and more active year ahead.

She said: "I am really looking forward to 2020 and being able to run around after my two young girls without getting out of breath as well as going swimming and to the park with them and teaching them healthy eating habits too!

"This Christmas was the best ever after feeling so low in previous years. Being nine stone lighter, I felt amazing.

"My advice to others would be to believe in yourself and never give up. If I can lose nine stone in 12 months then anyone can!"

Rebecca's 'slinky' new look after dropping 14 dress sizes.

Rebecca began following Slimming World's Food Optimising plan, which encourages members to eat healthy foods like pasta, rice, potatoes, lean meat, fish, fruit and veg.

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Trust to invest £1m to address shortage of anaesthetists

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Ormskirk Hospital.

SOUTHPORT and Ormskirk Hospitals NHS Trust is investing £1m in its anaesthetics service to address ongoing staffing issues which an internal report described as having 'potentially catastrophic risks' to patient safety.

However, trust bosses have moved to reassure patients that services at both hospital sites are 'safely maintained' despite difficulties recruiting anaesthetists - in common, they say, with trusts across the country.

The concerns were highlighted in the recent General Election campaign when local Labour party activists claimed NHS documents had exposed 'extreme' risks to patient and staff safety in hospitals.

With regard to the trust, which manages Southport and Formby District General Hospital and Ormskirk and District General Hospital, the party claimed: "There is a catastrophic risk of inadequate staffing levels in the anaesthetic department due to burn out, sickness, annual leave or lack of sufficiently cheap agency staff.

"This could affect the safety of emergency, ICU and maternity departments, and could mean that A&E would be closed to high risk patients, including children."

The comments were based on a report to a board of directors meeting in November. Along with the inadequate staffing of the anaesthetics department, the risk profile also identified missing appointments/admissions as being of 'potential catastrophic consequence'. Both risks were classified as being 'likely' to take place.

Southport and Ormskirk Hospitals NHS Trust told the Champion that NHS trusts across England are experiencing difficulties with staffing anaesthetic departments but that it is presently investing in the service and patients are safe.

A spokesperson for the trust said: "There is a shortage of anaesthetists across the NHS. Against this background the trust is investing £1m over three years redesigning our anaesthetics service, recruiting to new roles and providing training opportunities to our own staff.

"We are confident the medical cover and processes we have in place in the meantime ensure patient safety is maintained at all times."

Regarding the issue of missing appointments, the trust said it was essentially an administrative matter involving patients who had not been formally discharged. The spokesperson said: "The trust is reviewing patients who have received hospital treatment but has not been formally discharged. To date, three-quarters of these patients were discharged without need for further investigation. The remainder were seen by a doctor and then discharged with no further action."

According to the Royal College of Anaesthetists 75% of anaesthetic departments across the UK have at least one unfilled consultant post and around half (48%) of departments have advertised a consultant post that they have been unable to fill.

Anaesthetics is the largest specialty in the NHS with one in six consultants being anaesthetists.

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Student who survived flesh-eating bug aims to alert others to danger

AN Edge Hill University graduate who survived a so-called "flesh-eating bug" after being bitten by a mosquito in Asia is aiming to warn other students of the danger.

Donna Cox had been travelling around Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand to celebrate completing a master's degree in sport, physical activity and mental health. But the 22-year-old was forced to cut short her trip and return home after the bite became infected with necrotising fasciitis.

And doctors said that had she visited A&E just hours later than she did, she probably would not have survived.

Despite three operations on her leg, Donna was warned that she would struggle to walk again but she defied the odds to walk across the stage with crutches at her graduation ceremony.

Now she is aiming to alert others to the dangers of of necrotising fasciitis, the symptoms of which include intense pain out of proportion to any damage to the skin, followed by swelling and redness; a high temperature and other flu-like symptoms which may develop into diarrhoea and vomiting; and dark blotches on the skin that turn into fluid-filled blisters.

Donna (left) following her graduation and (above) her leg showing where the mosquito had bitten her.

Painful

She said: "A lot of students go travelling and I just want to do whatever I can to make sure people are aware of this infection and know what to look out for.

"I was doing everything you should to avoid mosquito bites like covering up and wearing spray but I was still getting bitten way more than anyone else I was with. Then this one bite became so painful that I couldn't stand or walk properly. When the pain carried on getting worse I ended up booking a flight home."

Donna intended to book a doctor's appointment but after speaking to an NHS out-of-hours service she went to her local A&E where she was admitted and kept in overnight before being rushed to the infectious diseases department at North Manchester General Hospital.

"I remember having to sign something giving them permission to amputate - and this was only a week after I got the bite."

Donna is still undergoing physiotherapy but is grateful to be alive and still have her leg. And she is planning to return to thank the doctor who she believes saved her life.

She had planned to travel again after picking up her degree but instead spent five weeks recovering in hospital. That enabled her to start looking for work and she has now secured her 'dream job' as a mental health nursing associate

"Now I almost feel like it was all meant to be!"

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Plasterer Kev is a smooth operator when it comes to celebrity dating

Report by **Henry James**

IT'S not everyday you get the chance to go out with a celebrity... but that's exactly what happened to Kev Donohue when he dated one of the Nolan sisters!

Kev, a plastering contractor from Ormskirk, appeared on Channel 4's 'Flirty Dancing' where he went out with singer and Loose Women star Coleen Nolan.

The singleton, 59, who grew up in Formby, was taking part in the celebrity edition of the programme, which was screened to raise awareness of the 'Stand Up To Cancer' appeal.

In the show, hopefuls are given four days to learn a dance routine but they don't meet the person they are paired with until the date when it is hoped they will create a spark when they start dancing together.

After the performance, the contestants must decide if they want to see their dance partner again... or, if their first dance together was their last!

The producers filmed Kev's back story at Hurlston Hall, where he regularly goes to the gym, and at Formby beach. The dancing was filmed in London.

The show is hosted by the choreographer, Ashley Banjo, who was impressed with Kev's moves: "Kev has a sense of rhythm. He has the passion and is a really nice guy with a great smile. To get him up to the place where he can lead Coleen round the floor in a few rehearsals is the challenge."

Coleen and Kev on a date.

Kev, who has also driven sleeper buses all over Europe for rock bands, such as U2 and The Rolling Stones, said: "I was head-hunted by the producers of the show on a dating site which I am on. They put me with someone who they thought I would be compatible with.

"I had the camera on me, but I have worked in the entertainment business before so I was not phased by it at all."

After the dance, he commented: "It was great. It was just magical. It didn't feel like dancing with someone I didn't know, or I had never met before."

So, is there a future with Coleen? Well, it looks as though their flirty dance ended up a very brief romance and Kev confessed "no more dates are planned."

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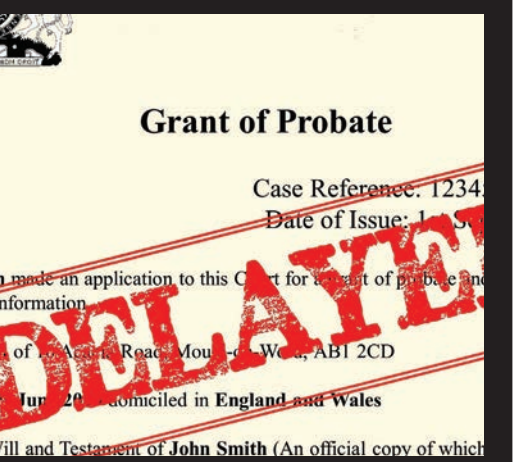
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Cooper backs 'neighbour' for Labour's top job

ROSIE Cooper is supporting Wigan MP Lisa Nandy in the contest to replace Jeremy Corbyn as leader of the Labour Party.

The West Lancs MP said: "I am pleased to have nominated my friend and neighbouring MP Lisa Nandy for leader of the Labour Party. Lisa understands and will be strong in fighting for communities like ours here in West Lancashire, making our voices heard and delivering, not just talking, while truly holding the Tories to account over the next five years.

"I have also nominated Dawn Butler for deputy leader, a strong candidate who I believe also speaks to a broad demographic not just within our party, but across the population of the UK."

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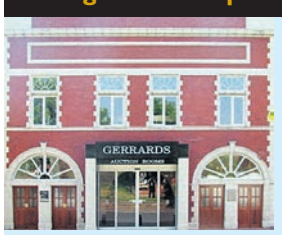
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Council's strategy to tackle homelessness recommended for public consultation

'Action Plan will focus on improving the depth and range of housing advice services and accommodation offer'

Report by **Henry James**

New council strategy provides an "updated picture of homelessness in the borough" and outlines objectives to be addressed.

CABINET members were set to discuss West Lancs Council's draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019-2024 at their scheduled meeting yesterday (Tuesday, January 14) with officers recommending that it then be made available to the public for consultation.

Under the Homelessness Act 2002 local authorities have to regularly review homelessness in their area. The council's current strategy was approved in 2017, but a further review has taken place following the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2018.

The new strategy provides an "updated picture of homelessness in the borough and outlines the key objectives that will be addressed."

The Action Plan in the report outlines the actions that "will be taken to meet the key objectives in order to reduce the number of homeless households in the borough."

The review found that homelessness in the borough is increasing with the groups most likely to present as homeless being males aged 25 to 44 and female single parents, which reflects the national trend.

The main cause of homelessness is reported to be the loss of assured, short-hold tenancies, again similar to the national picture.

And although the use of temporary accommodation in the borough was found to be minimal compared to national figures, it has increased during the last year.

Improvements

Key objectives outlined in the strategy are to reduce homelessness by increasing prevention and early intervention; enhance the housing offer for both temporary and longer-term accommodation; and to improve health and wellbeing.

Officers have said that an Action Plan, "will focus on improving the depth and range of housing advice services and the accommodation offer, to ensure more homeless cases are prevented."

They add that a period of public consultation is "required to allow stakeholders and the public to provide feedback or suggested improvements."

It is hoped that the actions contained in the strategy will "help to improve the housing advice offer to all who are faced with homelessness which in turn will reduce the number of households becoming homeless."

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Animal sanctuary to expand rescue and outreach work

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

STAFF at a West Lancs animal charity are looking to extend their rescue and outreach work.

The team at the Woodlands Animal Sanctuary in Sandy Lane, Holmeswood, say their sights are set firmly on the continued growth of their rescue and rehabilitation centre to continue helping sick, abandoned and unwanted pets and wildlife.

Alongside this, they are also looking to grow their outreach programme which aims to engage with people of all ages to teach them about the animals' health and care.

The charity has recently taken in three pygmy goats to live with their existing goats and sheep.

The trio of pygmy goats which have newly arrived at Woodlands Animal Sanctuary.

Education programme

Staff have named them Harry, Ron and Hermione, after the characters from the Harry Potter books - although they hope the trio don't get up to quite the same level of adventures as their famous namesakes!

The goats, which are being rehomed from Inglenook Farm in nearby Rainford following its recent closure, will feature in the charity's education and outreach programme by visiting schools, groups and clubs.

Meanwhile supporters have the opportunity to sponsor animals at the sanctuary and it is also still running its 'Buy A Bale' scheme, which encourages people to buy bedding and feed for those animals in the stable yard including ponies, donkeys, rabbits, sheep and goats. (For details search under Get Involved on the charity's website at www.woodlandsanimalsanctuary.org.uk/).

Among other fundraising events planned at Woodlands this year is the annual spring ball, which will also mark the charity's 15th birthday.

This will take place at the Bliss Hotel in Southport and includes a three-course meal, live band and DJ. Tickets are £39.50 and are available now by calling 01704 823293.

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

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Councillor should support 'pedestrian friendly' plan for Derby Street bridge

THERE were two interesting transport stories in the Champ (January 8) I'd like to respond to.

Firstly, the Derby Street bridge. Pardon the pun here, but Councillor Hennessey still seems to have the 'hump' over the decision to filter Derby Street down to one lane, fearing "traffic chaos" in the town centre.

Instead of throwing her toys out the pram like most modern politicians seem to do these days, perhaps she should take the issue up with Lancashire County Council and show some decorum.

If the Jacobs report has shown there will be a minimal impact on traffic, she should be fully supportive of this pedestrian friendly scheme. She is a Labour politician after all. If she doesn't support green initiatives, perhaps she should switch parties.

I personally think the scheme is a great idea. Ormskirk station is the second busiest in Lancashire and the pedestrian approaches to it are awful - and dangerous.

I've wrote about this before but Ormskirk station should be a major transport hub for rail, bus, pedestrians and cyclists. Liverpool South Parkway is a good example of how big the station should be, with its properly integrated bus terminus.

Which brings me on to my second story - the Ormskirk-to-Preston rail line. As ever, the story was more of a 'non-story'. A local councillor highlighting the new Merseyrail trains' battery operation capacity is no sure-fire sign Merseyrail are going to begin operation along the line any time soon.

However, improvements to the line are much needed and long overdue. We all know this, but I'm not sure if our local MP cares enough about it. It's about time Rosie Cooper started to speak up for rail passengers in West Lancashire and ensure that one of her key objectives for 2020 is to move rail transport to the top of her agenda.

We need to shift more people on to the rail network if we want to reduce road congestion and air pollution - especially with the amount of new houses being built in the borough - but this can only be achieved through political will. The question is, does Rosie have the will?

Scott Mitchelton, by email.

Restoring curves would be a better solution

I READ the 'Call for Merseyrail to be extended to Preston' story' (January 8) with interest.

Merseyrail does indeed top the league tables for reliability and performance, but this is due in large part to it being a self-contained network unaffected by congestion elsewhere.

Extending the Ormskirk service to Preston would have a negative effect on Merseyrail's performance, especially if it has to contend with extra Southport-Preston trains running on the same line.

If both Burscough curves are rebuilt then a better operating solution may be to extend Merseyrail from Ormskirk to Burscough Bridge on a self-contained line providing connections with the Southport-Wigan-Manchester line.

Northern could then switch its Ormskirk-Preston service to run to and from Southport (calling at Burscough Bridge to connect with the new Merseyrail service).

We would have a much better connected rail network without jeopardising the good service which Merseyrail already provides.

Matt, Town Green.

Loss of market stalls is a disaster for our town

SEEING market stalls' closing down sales, whilst others are proclaiming their intention to cease being in Ormskirk, is a disaster for our town.

Look at the main area - where shops are closing with Iceland being the latest - and notwithstanding that the place will look derelict during the week, at least the twice-weekly presence of the market can justify the council's statement that we are a Market Town.

So what if the council need to subsidise it a bit - and that may include a reduction in rent - which is another reason given to me as their departure.

Hopefully the 'upbeat' attitude being indicated by our new chief operating officer Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey may rub off on the out of touch council.

Martin Pagett, Ormskirk, by email.

Urgent action needed to tackle disgusting dog mess menace

I WOULD like to see a story in your paper about the disgusting state of the paths in Skelmersdale.

Something needs to be done about the sheer amount of dog poo along every single path.

I cannot walk two feet without seeing fresh or trodden-in dog poo and have now taken to driving out of Skelmersdale to walk my dog on paths that are clean and faeces-free!

Not only are there not enough bins (or bins placed in the middle of the grass with no access via a path) but there is not enough being done to deter bad dog owners from letting their dog foul in the middle of every path for kids to walk in!

It is also disgusting to see endless dog poo bags hanging inside bushes because people can't be bothered to take them home - also due to a lack of bins.

I look after a lady with learning disabilities who needs linking whilst out in the community and it is impossible to walk anywhere without having to walk single file while playing 'dodgems' to avoid the endless amounts of faeces in front of us. Are we expected to walk in the road?

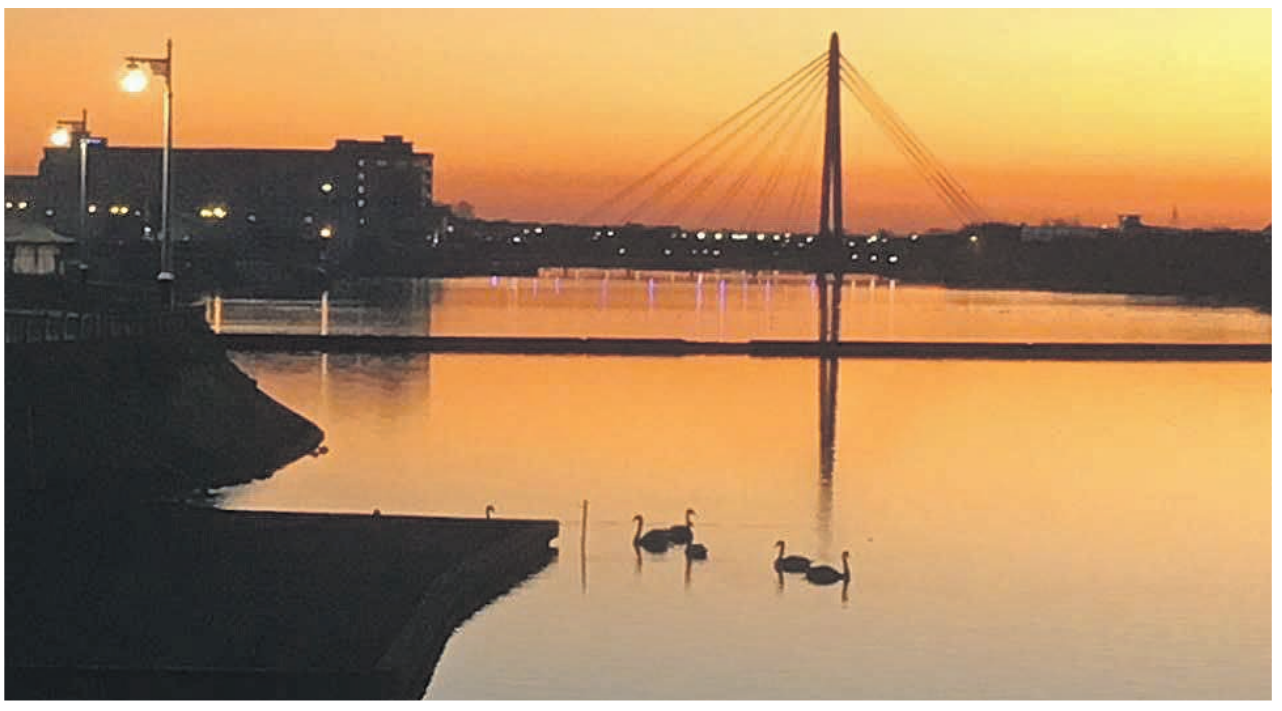
The whole of Skelmersdale is drowning in litter and faeces and is utterly unbearable to live in.

Why doesn't the council do something about the issue instead of letting it get to this disgusting state?

Sorry for the rant but this issue is out of control.

J.M., by email

PICTURE of the week



READER Jackie Cartwright from Churchtown, sent us this picture of Southporrt's Marine Way bridge taken from the balcony of the cafe at the Lakeside Church as twilight approached.
If you would like to submit a photo to be considered for the Champion's Picture of the Week slot, you can simply email it to us, as a J-peg attachment, to editorial@champnews.com. Please remember to include your name and the area where you live, along with brief caption details to accompany your photograph.

Support needed for M.E. research

MANY of your readers will know at least one of the 250,000 children and adults in the UK with myalgic encephalomyelitis (M.E.), also diagnosed as chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS, or M.E./CFS), though they may not see the devastating toll this serious neurological condition can take.

A lack of research means that we don't yet know the cause, or have an effective treatment, but a large, planned genetic study could change that. With scientists and patients working together, the M.E./CFS Biomedical Partnership is applying for funding to test DNA samples from 20,000 people with M.E. Readers can show their support for this potentially game-changing biomedical research, and sign-up for updates, at www.mebiomed.org.uk/get-involved

Sonya Chowdhury, chief executive, Action for M.E.

Drop us a line

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

They should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

■ PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.

Chance to help us to fund the fight back against the devastation of meningitis

I'D like to invite your readers to make a New Year's resolution to help us fight back against the devastation of meningitis in 2020 by joining our New Year New You campaign.

I know only too well the misery meningitis can bring. I was just 16 when I contracted bacterial meningitis, which left me seriously ill in hospital. Thankfully, I made a good recovery but others are not so fortunate.

Now, we're inviting everyone to join us and sign up for a Meningitis Now challenge or community event as part of our New Year New You campaign. We have lots to choose from, to suit all levels of fitness and interest, including treks, cycles and runs, in this country and abroad.

All the details are on our website at https://www.meningitisnow.org/support-us/news-centre/news-stories/new-year-new-you/

Money raised will help to fund preventative research, raise awareness and support those affected by the disease through Meningitis Now's unique range of services.

Please join us if you can in 2020 - together we can make a difference and fight back against meningitis.

Seema Jaswal, TV presenter and Meningitis Now Ambassador.

Failure to improve drainage will mean more misery for Burscough's flood victims

HAVING read the Christmas and New Year message in the Champion from West Lancashire Borough Council leader Ian Moran (January 1) I thought it a good opportunity to write a response for inclusion within the letters page please.

Due to the combined failures of WLBC and Lancashire County Council to use much of the currently published flooding evidence for Burscough; the drawn-out process of issuing the Jacob's report for Burscough; and WLBC's failure to consult with United Utilities on planning application 2019/1182/ARM; it could be perceived that flooding evidence in Burscough is being managed by omission and that is likely to enable the next phase of building on Yew Tree Farm to go ahead without any improvement in Burscough's drainage.

This could save United Utilities tens of millions but would further the misery of flood victims in Burscough.

Gavin Rattray, secretary, Burscough Flooding Group.

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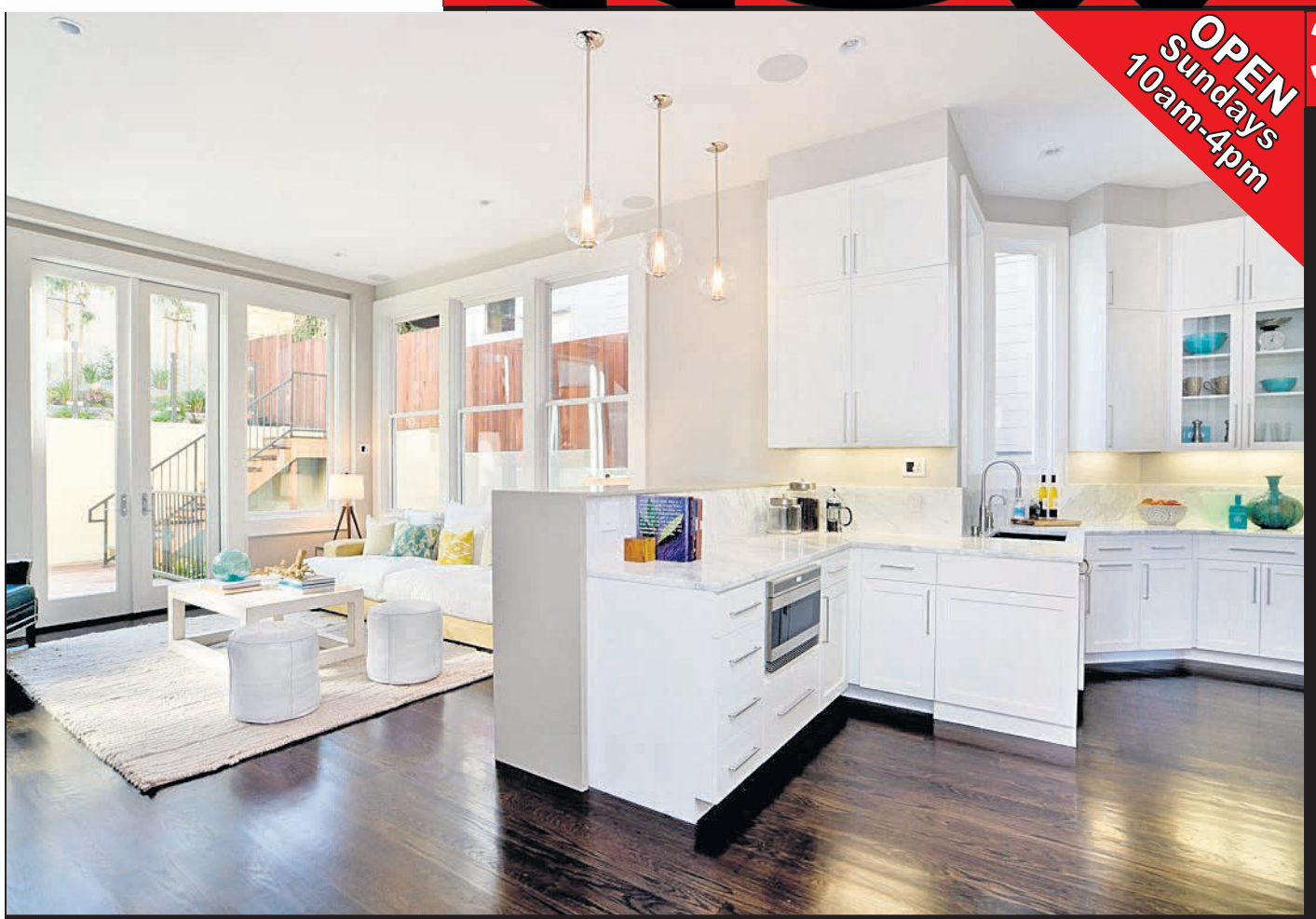

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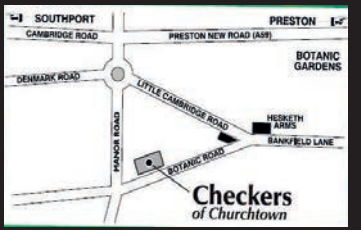

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Renewed appeal on behalf of African children's charity

Report by **Kenny Parker**

AN African-based charity, co-founded by a nun from Parbold, is once again appealing to the generosity of the West Lancashire community.

The Gorsilaure Project in Qinsantu, Bas-Congo, which provides a home and schooling for destitute children and orphans, has featured in the Champion regularly and its manager, Father Simon Lumbela, has been grateful for the generous support offered by readers over the years.

The charity was originally formed in 1998 after Sister Margaret Rose Scullion, of the Convent of Notre Dame on Lancaster Lane, Parbold, experienced the devastating effects of war on the people of the Congo.

Along with its accommodation, orphanage and schools, which provide primary and secondary education, it also has a hospital with maternity and surgical units, as well as overseeing farming, food production and manufacturing schemes.

Abandoned

Following Bas-Congo presidential elections in January last year, Sister Margaret Rose revealed in her Christmas newsletter to supporters that despite hopes that the country's economic situation would improve for its citizens nothing had changed.

She wrote: "The socio-economic situation of the people is the worst in the world despite the so called riches of the Congo.

"The people are in the worst kind of misery and parents are at a complete loss as to how to provide for their families. Numberless children are simply being abandoned."

Sister Margaret Rose Scullion.

Father Simon added that the work of the Gorsilaure Project would not be possible without the generosity of its supporters. "This is why, we are turning to you and asking you to remember the poor children of the Congo," he wrote, "Thank you for your kindness."

To donate to The Gorsilaure Project send a cheque or postal order (payable to The Gorsilaure Project) to Peter Harding at 6 Sealstrand, Dalgety Bay, Fife, KY11 9NG. Peter can be contacted on 01383 822540 or 07963 606 677.

Alternatively, people can donate directly to the charity's bank account: Royal Bank of Scotland, sort code 832901 and account number 00684017.

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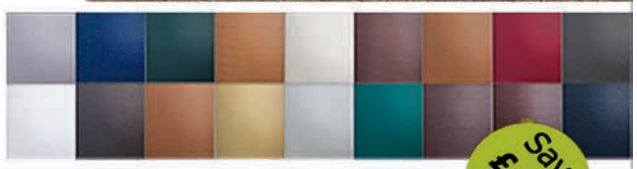

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Universal Credit claimants urged to check their eligibility for lesser-known benefits

WEST LANCASHIRE residents are being urged to check some of the lesser-known Universal Credit claims to see if they could be eligible.

According to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), there are more than 2.7million people receiving Universal Credit, but there are additional entitlements that may be going under the radar.

This includes help with childcare costs, half-price travel on rail and bus services and help with a lack of ‘work clothes’.

Here are six Universal Credit entitlements that you may not know about:

1. Up to 85% of childcare costs can be reimbursed through Universal Credit. Costs can be reported online, and those in work while in receipt to Universal Credit can apply for up to £646.35 per month if you have one child and up to £1,108.40 for two or more children.

2. You can get up to 50% off train and bus travel if you are eligible for a Jobcentre Plus Travel Discount Card which is great for getting you to interviews and appointments as well as being valid for all other journeys you make.

3. Not having ‘work clothes’ doesn’t have to stop you accepting a job as a Flexible Support Fund is available to help you cover the costs of starting work. This money does not have to be paid back, and can cover the costs of things like clothing and uniforms to start work, and travel to interviews.

Minister for Welfare Delivery Will Quince.

4. If you are having a child you may be entitled to a one-off payment. Known as the Sure Start Maternity Grant, households on Universal Credit can benefit from a one-off payment of £500.

5. You could save on your Council Tax bill and in some case you may not need to pay anything at all.

Depending on your circumstances and where you live you may be eligible for a Council Tax Reduction.

6. You can get help to start saving. The Government’s Help to Save scheme offers people who receive Universal Credit, and some people entitled to Working Tax Credit, incentives to save anything from £1 up to £50 per month. After two years of saving, the government will give you an extra 50p for every £1 you have saved.

Minister for Welfare Delivery, Will Quince said: “We are helping people to access the support they need, and Universal Credit can help you pay essential bills, such as housing and childcare.

“We know life can be complicated at times, but claiming benefits doesn’t have to be. If you need help, our staff are here to simplify the system and make sure you’re getting the right level of support.”

If you think you may be eligible for any of the above additional entitlements speak to your work coach at your next appointment or send a message in your online journal.

It is important that you give the right information when making a claim and report life changes as soon as possible to ensure your Universal Credit continues to be paid correctly.

You may even find out that you are eligible for other benefits or support.

If you are unsure about something relating to your Universal Credit claim call the DWP’s Universal Credit hot-line on 0800 328 5644.

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ELM HOUSE CARE HOME

Health officials' call for borough residents to look after themselves and each other to keep winter illness at bay

Report by **Henry James**

HEALTH service officials are reminding West Lancs residents of the importance of looking after themselves and each other during the cold winter months.

Winter can pose many problems for health and wellbeing, especially for older people and/or those with long-term conditions.

Cold and wet weather, ice, snow and windy conditions all play their part in making existing health conditions worse and making people vulnerable to picking up colds, sore throats, asthma, norovirus and most commonly the flu. Many older folk in particular can also experience loneliness due to being more shut off due to the dark nights and colder weather.

But there are some simple steps people can take to maintain their health and wellbeing during the winter months and as part of the preparations for the year ahead, the NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), is urging people to get organised with their health too by looking after themselves and each other.

Dr John Caine, local GP and chair of the CCG, said: "A sense of community is so important and it's essential that people are mindful of people who may be more isolated or vulnerable over the winter months.

"We recommend checking on older neighbours, ensuring they have the basics such as adequate heating and food provisions especially during very cold weather spells.

"Ensure you have your basic first aid kit topped up at home with basics such as cough medicine and pain killers so that you can self-treat minor issues at home. It is also incredibly important for everyone to carefully consider which health service to use when so the urgent services can focus on those who are most in need."

The CCG is also reminding residents to use Patient Access to keep on top of repeat prescriptions by just using their phone.

Activities

Dr Caine continued: "Another thing we are all guilty of over the festive season is over-indulging. And while that is all part of the celebrations, it is important that everyone maintains the most active healthiest lifestyle they can.

"There are many ways people can do this by eating a balanced diet and enjoying walks in the local park or a new fitness class, or by doing more day-to-day exercise such as taking the stairs and walking to the local shop".

Active West Lancs offers a variety of programmes and activities to help borough residents improve their health and wellbeing.

Free Active Weight classes are starting mid-January at various locations across the borough and there are also health walks, walking football, tai chi, gym and line dancing sessions available to try.

More information, including how to access courses and classes, is available at http://activewestlancs.org/.

Councillor Yvonne Gagen, West Lancs Councvil's cabinet member for leisure, said: "Make 2020 the year you make your health a priority. Active West Lancs can help you achieve your goal, so take a look at the website and find the activities that are right for you."

Dr John Caine, chairman of NHS West Lancashire CCG.

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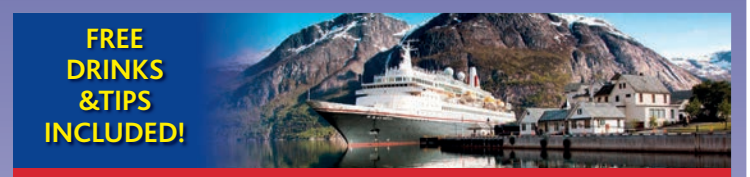

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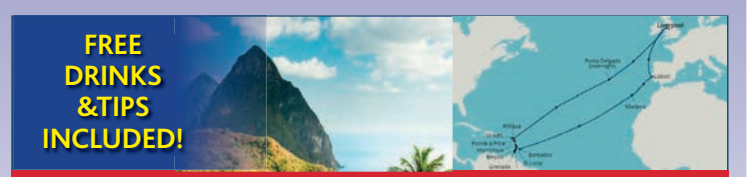

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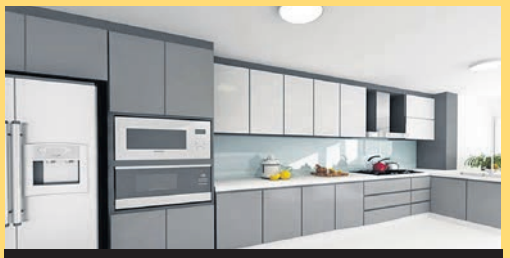

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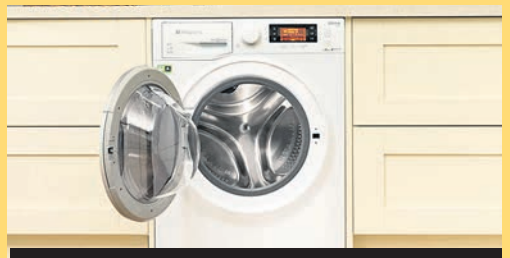

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Have a scam-free 2020!

LOOKING back to 2000, do you remember all the noise around the world telling us that the change from 20th to 21st century would see the collapse of our computer systems?

I can remember the way we waited with trepidation as we logged on to our desktops and laptops for the first time on January 1, 2000, and the sighs of relief as nothing untoward happened. Now we have reached 2020, our computer systems continue to take control of our lives.

At home it has been a quiet few days with no phone calls threatening us with Amazon Prime subscription increases and computer and broadband repairs. However I have heard from a local resident about a number of text invitations on her mobile phone to take part in a Citizens Advice Satisfaction Survey.

Our national Citizens Advice Service and our local Sefton Advice Service do not carry out such online surveys.

Locally, if you are a client at one of our advice centres we may occasionally ask you after an interview with one of our advisors, for your views on our service for yourself, but this will be a short paper questionnaire to complete and hand back to our receptionist before you leave..

Phone calls offering a 'fix' for your computer over the internet are frauds. Do not give access to your computer to anyone who cold calls you and never give your personal details or send money to people you do not know.

I recently heard of a phishing fraud involving EE mobile service and Monzo, the online bank. The fraudster managed to text a message to the victim apparently from EE saying that their monthly payment had not been received, and giving a link to enter his Monzo card details, which he did. The next day Monzo contacted him to state that his account had been compromised. The person asked me if he had been asked for my bank details recently and he told Monzo about the message from EE. It soon emerged that someone had made a £214 payment to a company he had never heard of – Bunq. He was seemingly the a victim of a 'phishing' scam in which the fraudster impersonated both EE and Monzo. After investigations, Monzo credited the victim with the £214 that he had lost.

Finally, Merseyside Police have recently shared a warning with the public, after an elderly woman was tricked into handing over several thousands of pounds in cash, following a phone call with a man who claimed to be a police officer. The pensioner, from Southport, was first contacted over the phone by a man who said he was a police officer from London who was investigating a fraud case and needed her assistance.

The man went on to ask the woman to withdraw a significant amount of money from her account and told her that someone would call for it later that day. She did so, and following this, then spoke to three different people on the phone - two men and a woman, who claimed to be working on the investigation.

And later in the day, a man aged 18-19 years old, dressed in a black bomber jacket and dark coloured jeans, turned up at the pensioner's home to collect the cash.

He is described as a black male, 5ft 10in tall, with an afro style hair cut around six inches in length.

Merseyside Police have also issued advice on what to do if someone turns up at your door, including those who pose as officials.

The force say that taking the following simple steps could prevent you, or your family, becoming victims:

- Remember to close and lock the back door before answering the front door
- Always ask to see the identification of the person calling
- If you are in any doubt about the identification shown, phone the company they claim to represent and check - don't use the phone number they give you, look in the phone book for it
- Ask the person to wait outside while you check and never leave your front door open while you do so
- If the caller claims to be from an electricity, gas or water company, ask them to quote your customer reference number. A genuine caller from these utility companies will have that information
- If the caller claims to be from the police he/she should have a warrant card and this can be checked by calling Merseyside Police on 101
- If the caller leaves and you are still unsure about their credibility, write down the details of the person and the registration number and type and colour of vehicle if you know it and contact us on 101
- For extra security and peace of mind, fit a viewer or spy hole and a strong chain to your door.

Citizens Advice Sefton has a general telephone service on 0344 493 0012, or you can visit either of the local advice centres. Opening days and times are shown on the website http://sefton-cab.org.uk/our-services.html You can also report to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or online at www.actionfraud.police.uk.

Pupils' support for the persecuted

PUPILS from St Bede's Catholic High School in Ormskirk have been raising awareness of the persecution of Christians, people of faith and people of principle from throughout the world.

In partnership with Aid to the Church in Need and Christian Solidarity Worldwide, pupils joined millions of Christians around the globe for #RedWednesday and organised a range of events in school culminating with an Ecumenical Prayer Service at St Anne's Church.

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Tom achieves degree goal after work with football club's community arm

AN Edge Hill student has graduated with a PhD after working to encourage men in disadvantaged communities to exercise more and improve their physical and mental health.

While studying for his PhD, Tom Duffell *(pictured)* led research on a project called Active Blues, funded in part by The National Lottery through Sport England and run in partnership between the Ormskirk university and Everton in the Community (EitC).

Active Blues is part of an award-winning seven-year partnership between Edge Hill and EitC which focuses on improving the health and lives of local communities through sport and physical activity.

Tom's research aimed to better understand the barriers to physical activity for men aged between 35 and 50, focussing on activities run by Active Blues in disadvantaged communities in North Liverpool, such as walking football, gym-based fitness sessions, golf and cycling.

Proud

The 32-year-old, who previously worked in exercise rehabilitation for the NHS, said: "I'm so proud and happy to have graduated, and I hope I can continue to work on publications with Edge Hill academics like Professor Andy Smith and Dr David Haycock.

"I think it's great that Edge Hill has this partnership with Everton in the Community because it means students can gain vital volunteer and other work-related experience with their projects and undertake important research activity like I did."

As part of his PhD, Tom, evaluated the effectiveness of using a football brand to engage inactive men in physical activity. It is hoped his research will be used to inform EitC on how best to deliver future projects and Sport England's national policy and practice in sport.

Edge Hill honours distinguished judge

JUDGE Professor Paulo Pinto de Albuquerque has been recognised for his outstanding contribution to social justice and human rights law with an honorary doctorate from Edge Hill University.

A distinguished jurist and legal academic, he has authored more than 150 opinions and significantly contributed to the development of international human rights law.

Nominated by senior lecturers, Dr Mariagiulia Giuffré and Dr Triestino Mariniello, the honorary award is a result of the judge's significant contribution to strengthening Edge Hill's research profile in human rights law.

Last year, he invited the law lecturers to Strasbourg to deliver training at the European Court of Human Rights.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Super slimmer Kath is feeling happy because of Slimming World'

Kath Archer is looking forward to life after losing over 3st and keeping it off with her local Slimming World group. The 57-year-old, from Ormskirk has dropped a whopping 4 dress sizes since joining her Slimming World group in February2019, Kath wore a dress size 18-20 at her heaviest and is now a dress size 12.

"I really enjoyed the festivities and finally feeling glamorous enough to wear the outfits I always wanted to but to start 2020 at my ideal weight has been the icing on the cake." says Kath. She adds, I was very nervous when I first walked through the doors of the group because I expected everyone to judge me, but I needn't have worried because everyone was so friendly and welcoming. I've made friends and I love swapping recipes and ideas every week. There's lots going on in the group so it's always lots of fun. My Consultant has been so supportive too, she's positive and enthusiastic and is always at the end of the phone if I need her."

After joining Slimming World, Kath began following the club's Food Optimising healthy eating plan and was amazed to discover that she didn't have to give up her favourite meals: "I actually eat the same things now as before – Chinese, roast dinners, pasta dishes – but they're all made from scratch and I still eat out too – I just make healthier choices like having pasta with a tomato and vegetable sauce instead of meals that are fried or covered in creamy sauces or dressings." I love to bake but now treat myself to a small slice rather than the whole cake! Before I lost weight I found socialising and nights out very difficult - I could never find clothes I felt comfortable in and shopping was so stressful I ended up buying things online. Now I love shopping in all the high street stores. This year I've been accepting every invitation I receive and instead of hiding in baggy or black clothes, I've been showing off my new figure!"

Kath's Daily Menu

Breakfast: *cereal, yoghurt and fruit.*
Lunch: *homemade soup, snack of yoghurt and fruit*
Dinner: *spaghetti bolognese with lots of veg*
Treats: *cappuccino and cereal bar. Plus the odd glasses of wine or gin and slimline tonic or small chocolate bar.*

So if you want to be feel happier and healthier like Kath in 2020, please see the advertisement attached for all local group details.

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LYDIATE
MERSEY MOTOR BOAT CLUB
36 Pilling Lane, Lydiate L31 4HF
9am & 11am

OLD SKELMERSDALE
Skelmersdale Cricket Club,
Blaguegate Lane
5pm & 7pm

TUESDAY
OLD SKELMERSDALE
Skelmersdale Cricket Club,
Blaguegate Lane
9am & 11am

SUE
07817 444580

MONDAY
ASHURST, SKELMERSDALE
The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
9am & 11am

ASHURST, SKELMERSDALE
The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm

SATURDAY
ORMSKIRK
St Anne's School, Aughton Street
8.30am, 10.30am & 12.30pm

VICTORIA
07766 136641

MONDAY
OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco),
Aintree Lane
9.30am & 11.30am

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco),
Aintree Lane
5pm & 7pm

EMMA
07414 223 617

WEDNESDAY
MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines, Sefton Lane
(behind Fun Factor)
4.30pm & 6.30pm

TINA
07855 097 585

WEDNESDAY
ORMSKIRK
Toby Carvery Private Function Room
County Road, Ormskirk L39 1NN
9.30am & 11.30am

SATURDAY
ORMSKIRK
Toby Carvery Private Function Room
County Road, Ormskirk L39 1NN
8am & 10am

SARAH
07969 395302

WEDNESDAY
UP HOLLAND
UpHolland Methodist Church,
Alma Hill
7.30am, 9.30am,
3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm

SATURDAY
OLD SKELMERSDALE
Greenhill Community Centre, Beech Close
(off Lancaster Crescent)
8am & 10am

KATHY
07815 199346

WEDNESDAY
BURSCOUGH
Burscough Cricket Club,
School Lane
3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm

CAROL
07794 957 524

TUESDAY
ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
5.30pm

ZOE
01695 580 966

THURSDAY
AUGHTON
Aughton Village Hall, Winifred Lane
8.00am & 10.00am

AUGHTON
Scout and Guide Hut
(behind Christ Church), Long Ln
5.30pm & 7.30pm

FRIDAY
ORMSKIRK
New Pavilion
Ormskirk Cricket Club, Altys Lane
9am

SUE
07957 531346

MONDAY
MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines, Sefton Lane
(behind Fun Factor)
6.30pm

THURSDAY
MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines, Sefton Lane
(behind Fun Factor)
5:00pm & 7.00pm

FRIDAY
MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines, Sefton Lane
(behind Fun Factor)
9:30am & 11:30am

KATIE
07469 193445

THURSDAY
MELLING
Caunce Hall (Scout Hut)
146, Waddicar Lane,
Melling, L31 1DZ
5pm & 7pm

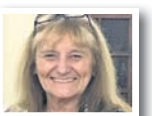
SARAH
07792 146 342

THURSDAY
DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre,
Birleywood
9am & 11am

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre,
Birleywood
3.30 & 5.30pm

GILL
07921 222405

SATURDAY
MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines
Sefton Lane (behind Fun Factor)
8.30am & 10.30am


SHEILA
07827 335824

TUESDAY
CHESHIRE LINES
Sefton Lane (behind Fun Factor)
5pm & 7pm

WEDNESDAY
MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines, Sefton Lane
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9.30am

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Coaches and members of the Scarisbrick Swords are looking forward to another successful year ahead in 2020.

Fencing club members celebrate a year of success and progress

MEMBERS and officials of a West Lancs fencing club are looking forward to a productive 2020 after celebrating a successful year of competition in 2019.

Paul Michell, coach of the Scarisbrick Swords based at Scarisbrick Hall School, said: "We have enjoyed a significant year of competitive success, culminating this month in James Hughes' selection for the Welsh under-15 team for Poland 2020 and the continued selection of Sophia Neophytou and Grace Michell for the North West ladies under-17 team for the Cadet Winton Cup, the annual inter-regional tournament.

"In addition to that trio, strong results have also been posted by the club's up and coming competitors as well. Most notably, Katy Hawthorne's victory at the under-12 Cocks Moors Woods Championship and the excellent performances by Michael and Edward Neophytou of fifth and third in the Elite Épée and Leon Paul Junior Series respectively.

"Nayan Biswas and William Devers have also won medals in the North West Youth Series in what was just their first season as competitive fencers.

Delighted

"For me and the club's other coaches, these results are the fruits of several years of patient development with both the club and the individual athletes who train there. They are delighted with this progress but also have their sights firmly set on extending this success and establishing the club's reputation in the fencing world and beyond.

"Scarisbrick Swords is a not-for-profit community sports club governed by constitution. It promotes the sport of fencing, particularly for young people in the surrounding area and aims to improve the health and well-being of all its members through fencing.

"Although the club has grown out of Scarisbrick Hall's after-school sports provision, it now has several children and adults who regularly take part from outside the school and membership ranges from raw beginners to experienced national competitors."

For more information about the club email info@scarisbrickswords.co.uk or search for them on Facebook.

Classic car lovers' £800 boost for animal rescue centre

MEMBERS of a motoring club have shown their love for four legs as well as four wheels by raising £800 for an animal rescue centre!

The West Lancashire MG Owners Club adopted Carla Lane Animals in Need rescue centre in Melling as their chosen charity for 2019 and the money was the result of various fundraising events held throughout the year. Four members of the club - chairman Ralph Greenhalgh, secretary Cam Cunningham and Malc Evans and Kim Hague - visited the kennels to hand over the cheque.

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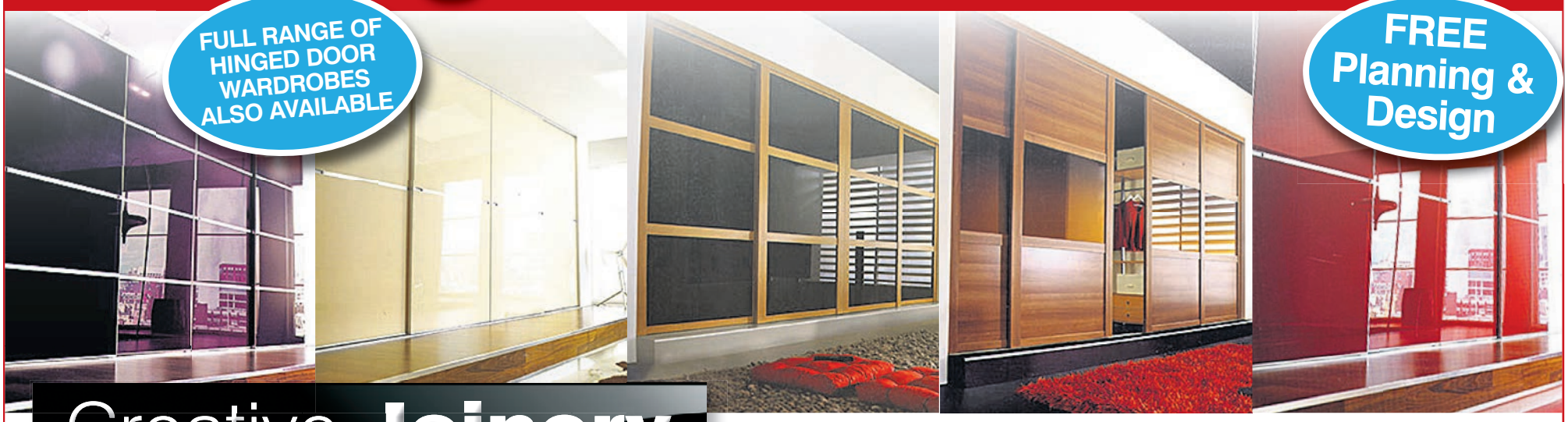

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Ex-police press officer is heritage group guest

A FORMER press officer for both Lancashire and Greater Manchester police forces will be guest speaker at the first talk of the new year for the Burscough Heritage Group.

Entitled 'A Police Spokesperson said...' Roger Blaxall's talk will discuss his past career at the meeting to be held at the Bull and Dog Inn, Liverpool Road South, Burscough on Monday, January 20. He will also be asking for the audience's help in exploring actual cases.

The meeting starts at 7.30pm and entry is by a £2 donation.

For more information call Lesley Stopforth on 07745 337510.

History society AGM

MERE Brow Local History Society will hold its annual general meeting on Wednesday, January 15 at Mere Brow Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

All members are invited to attend to help appoint the officers for the forthcoming year. After the business is concluded the evening will end with a hot-pot supper.

For more information call Joan on 01772 814289.

Acts to reduce discrimination can also breed resentment

DO you reckon that should I apply for another job (unlikely but still) and failed to get it I could start a movement making it illegal to discriminate against folk - men or women of course - who choose to wear a moustache, for obviously that could be the only cause of my not being selected?

It is perhaps not that far from being possible in today's climate for anyone who thinks of themselves as being even slightly different from what used to be called 'the norm' can use that difference as a reason (whoops, sorry, I nearly wrote excuse) for not being selected.

All this started very rightly when folk were routinely barred not only from jobs but even accommodation simply for being black, brown or indeed anything but whitey pink. It was wrong, very wrong - and needed stamping down on - hard.

Trouble was though that from very reasonable and badly needed legislation, just about everybody who failed to get employment, hotel bed or restaurant table jumped on the bandwagon.

Now don't get me wrong - it is wrong if the reason is that you happen to be of different colour, faith or indeed sex.

But it is likely that people have received either a new job or promotion within the organisation they work for not necessarily on merit but because of the furore that would follow when it turned out that the applicant was 'foreign' or indeed, female, and failed to get the job allegedly just because they were - if you get my drift and put out the now feared 'discrimination' howl.

Now folk of my age can well remember the time when on just about any TV programme you could just about guarantee the 'token black man.' And that was just about the nadir - it was worse than any total ban in an uncomfortable, guilty feeling way.

And happily those days are gone.

Now though you have, for instance, the recent Golden Globe awards. And sure enough, there was a rather cross woman on Radio 4 who grudgingly agreed that there are now far more female directors in the film industry but they didn't win any awards! "This must change" was the cry.

Now maybe this is true - though I doubt it if only because these days there really is no reason why the directors who win the Golden whatnots are men unless - and I realise I am running my neck into a noose now - perhaps, just perhaps, it happens that it was films directed by people of the male persuasion that happened to make the best films.

And that is rapidly becoming the problem. The original intent of the equality campaigners was not to ensure that the right proportion of people of colour, or of any sex, would get their 'share' of jobs or awards - but that they would have as much chance of getting them as any white male.

I don't know how many people of Chinese extraction live in the UK, but it must be quite sizeable.

Perhaps most of these particular people do not wish to become an MP, or that again, just perhaps, somebody of Chinese extraction did - but simply wasn't the best candidate.

Surely, for instance, if there are, say, 12 applicants for a particular job, only one of which is a woman, then in any genuinely fair world she should stand a one in 12 chance of success and if she then tries to play the 'discrimination card' should be told quite simply 'sorry, but you weren't the best applicant.'

But no, these days she would very likely be given a spot on TV and radio news and the company concerned would be on the back foot, unable to be rude about her capabilities and probably just glad that she happened not to be white!

I remember some years ago now, an acquaintance thinking of applying for a particular post saying: "If I was a female, black, disabled one parent family I'd be a shoo-in."

That may or may not have been the case but it is sadly how people feel sometimes.

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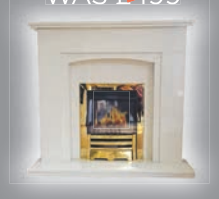
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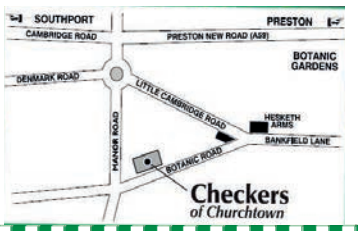

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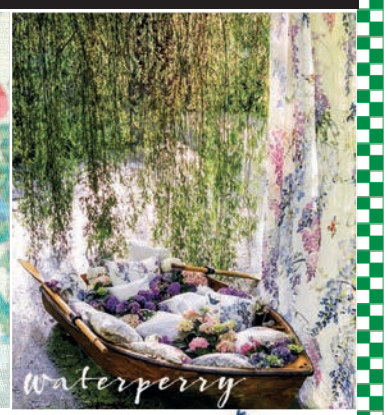

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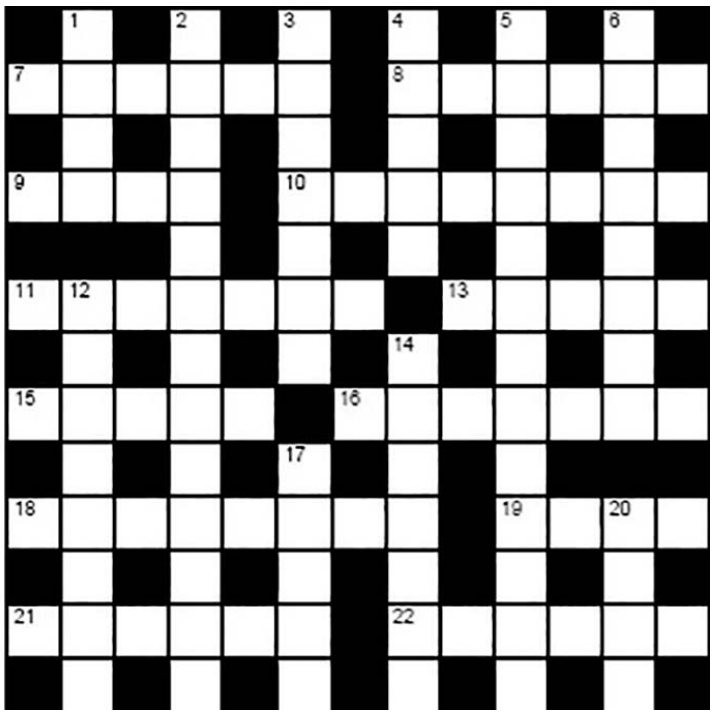

Last week's solutions:
Across: 7. Contraception. 8. Tranquil. 9. Loaf. 10. Redcoat. 12. Acute. 14. Rival. 16. Contact. 19. Feta. 20. Cribbage. 22. Schizophrenia.
Down: 1. Tour. 2. Ethnic. 3. Tabular. 4. Belly. 5. Italic. 6. Monastic. 11. Eminence. 13. Tonight. 15. Adagio. 17. Tablet. 18 Scoop. 21. Grim

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ACROSS

7. An assistant (6)
8. Waiting to be connected while making a telephone call (2, 4)
9. Opposed to (4)
10. Lose or lack vitality; grow weak (8)
11. Refrain from doing or enjoying something (7)
13. Confess to be true (5)
15. Long for (5)
16. An anxious awareness of danger (7)
18 Inspiring great affection (8)
19. Period of 40 days that Christians observe from Ash Wednesday to Easter, often marked by giving something up (4)
21. Cause bodily harm to (6)
22. Cite as evidence (6)

DOWN

1. Inert gas used in fluorescent lamps and illuminated advertising signs (4)
2. Small organisation, typically a political party, that has broken away from a larger one (8, 5)
3. A framework of light wooden or metal bars used as a support for fruit trees or climbing plants (7)
4. Unit of weight equal to 1,000 kilograms (5)
5. Common name for the scapula (8, 5)
6. The dried aromatic fruit of a Caribbean tree (8)
12. The mating and production of offspring by animals (8)
14 Forbidden by law (7)
17. Building occupied by a community of monks or nuns (6)
20. Part of a person's body connecting the head to the rest (4)

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Uplifting musical coming to Empire for first time

ONE of the most celebrated musicals of all time, Once comes to Liverpool for the first time, playing at Liverpool Empire from Monday 20 to Saturday, January 25.

Based on the critically acclaimed and much-loved film, Once tells the uplifting yet yearning story of two lost souls, a Dublin street busker and a Czech musician simply known as 'Guy' and 'Girl'. Once stars Daniel Healy and Emma Lucia as Guy and Girl, and ahead of the show's North West premiere they came to Liverpool to busk across the city centre, performing songs from the musical's award-winning score.

From the Liver Building to Liverpool Lime Street, Daniel and Emma could be seen performing to the gathering crowds.

Celebrated for its original score including the Academy Award-winning song Falling Slowly, Once is a spell-binding and uplifting story of hopes and dreams.

Once embarks on its first major UK tour after acclaimed runs on Broadway and in the West End, and having won awards across the world including the Academy Award for Best Original Song, a Grammy for Best Musical Theatre Album, eight Tony Awards and an Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Music.

The cast is led by Daniel Healy as Guy and Emma Lucia as Girl, who return to the roles after receiving critical and audience acclaim in the production's 2018 premiere at the New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich and Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch.

Daniel Healy is a singer-songwriter, musician and actor, who has co-written songs for multi-platinum artist Ronan Keating including the single Breathe, which topped the BBC Radio 2 Playlist. Theatre credits include Backbeat and Once, both in the West End.

Emma Lucia made her professional debut as Marilyn and under studying Carole King in the UK Tour of Beautiful, before taking on the role of Girl in Once.

The cast also features Dan Bottomley as Billy, Matthew Burns as Eamon, Ellen Chivers as Reza, Rosalind Ford as ex-girlfriend, Lloyd Gorman as Svejc, David Heywood as Emcee, Samuel Martin as bank manager, Peter Peverley as Da, Susannah Van Den Berg as Baruska and James William-Pattison as Andrej.

The cast also includes Emma Fraser, Seán Keany, Hanna Khogali and Conor McFarlane. Once is directed by Peter Rowe with set and costume design by Libby Watson, musical supervision by Ben Goddard, choreography by Francesca Jaynes, lighting design by Mark Dymock, sound design by James Cook, projection design by Peter Hazelwood and orchestrations by Martin Lowe. Casting is by Debbie O'Brien.

Based on the cult 2007 Irish indie feature, originally shot on a micro-budget of just $160,000, Once premiered at the New York Theatre Workshop in 2011 before transferring to Broadway in 2012.

There it won eight Tony Awards including Best Musical, the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Musical and the Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album.

Productions have since opened all over the world, including the West End production in 2013 which received the Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Music.

Once has a Book by award-winning Irish playwright and screenwriter Enda Walsh, and music and lyrics by Academy Award winning Glen Hansard and Markéta Irglová who, for Falling Slowly, won the Oscar for Best Original Song.

It is based on the motion picture written and directed by John Carney. The Original Production Concept is by John Tiffany.

Daniel Healy and Emma Lucia outside the Liver building

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DRAW CURTAINS 89 inches drop, 90 inches wide. Brown and cream in colour, with tie backs. Suitable for pole hanging. £10 07387439004

DISPLAY UNIT Mahogany with cut glass & lights with mirrored back 18" deep by 36" wide by 72" high £85 07756229527

DINING TABLE with 4 upholstered chairs. Approx 57" long 37" wide £100 ono 07810 093323

HOUSE AND HOME

DINING TABLE Black High gloss solid extendable glass dining table with 4 chairs. VGC. Cost £1000 from Harveys. Bargain at £100 ono 07974813907

DINING TABLE 60" extends 84"/44" wide 8 upholstered chairs sideboard 52" x 21" 5 draws/2 cupboards solid wood excellent condition £1150 01704220356

DINING SET Pine table 6 chairs, 60" long by 29" wide by 30" high £90 07756229527

DIMPLEX DEHUMIDIFIER £40. No!No! hair remover, used twice, 4 new heads, cream buffer £70 07578 704785

DENBY POTTERY 12 cups and saucers in Regency Green. £30 the lot. 07931561650

CUTLERY SET Arthur Price silver plated Jesmond design 44 piece cutlery set in original mahogany box. £75. Tel. 07702997311

CUTGLASS DECANTER Real cutglass whiskey decanter in excellent condition £10 01704 573121

CURTAINS 2 pair fully lined ready to hang curtains in blue with gold patterned thread size 108"x84" drop.Might separate. £35. 07702997311

CURTAINS teal/brown colour lined curtains with satin finish includes tie backs heavy weight measures 66" wide/72" drop excellent condition bargain £20 01704220356

CURTAIN POLE next curtain pole set with fittings brushed steel with large ball finials new unused size 125 to 216mm £25 01704380914

COFFEE TABLE Hard wood with 2 drawers Lovely table VGC Width 120 x Depth 60 x Height 17.5 cm May deliver£75 01704560150

CLOTHES DRYER Dri Buddi JML drys up to 10kg of textiles with instruction manual. £20 07931561650

CLOTHES DRYER Tripod (like a coat stand) dryer from Aldi. Folds up for easy storage with instruction book. £10 07931561650

CLOAKROOM CORNER UNIT with white basin and s/steel tap, gc £20. Beautiful cream and gold double bed throw and pillow shams £35 01704 807969

CHILDREN'S CURTAINS Pair size 185cms drop by 164cms wide, each panel. Pencil pleat. Woodland animals.Fully lined, excellent condition £10 07813 392087

CHILDREN'S BED Metal high sleeper bed with futon, desk, stool and ladder. Buyer will need to dismantle. £110 07534161543

HOUSE AND HOME

CANDLESTICKS pair of next reproduction candlesticks,antique style,12 in high, 5in base, good condition.£20 01515201255

CAMPBED MATTRESS solid camp bed, hardly used mattress £95.00 07724827159

BOSCH DISHWASHER Free standing white dishwasher. Full/standard size (60cm wide). Fits under worktop counter. Good condition. £60. 01695 421902

3 SEATER COACH All most new. Only used for TV setting, dark grey (Ikea) £195 07535063321

3 PIECE SUITE Settee and two armchairs, with matching cushions, bought from Arighi Bianchi. Biscuit colour in very good condition. £350 01704 875162

2 LAMPS Lamps on plinths 52" high shade 20" wide. White & gold £60 07756229527

2 CHAIRS Blue / grey upholstered meeting room type chairs 31" high by 23" wide by 29" deep excellent condition £50 07756229527

DINING SET Round glass table with 4 high back chrome chairs. Table 30" high by 45" across £80 07756229527

MISC

WATER URN Chrome plated, 20 Ltr in good condition. Height. 22" Width 11"Ideal for catering, parties, barbecues, clubs, pubs. £40 07387439004

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PLATES Holly hobbie vintage ceramic plates 10in 1978 barratts x3 £10 each 07790791733

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MEERKAT TOY yakov's meerkat original toy sergei boxed with certificate £15 ono 07790791733

MISC

LUXURY CUSHIONS 7 duck-egg blue on grey background 100% feather cushions 3 @ 52cm square and 4 @ 70x40cm rectangular £80 Formby 07590028368

LARGE RUG Soft very thick pile Alhede rug. 7'10"x5'3" (240cmx160cm). Anthracite with light flecks. Excellent condition 2 available £85.00each Formby 07590028368

JOOP THRILL Joop thrill mens 30 ml edt brand new and sealed with cellophane. £20 07467098657

MISC

GOLD CHAIN T bar Figaro 9ct gold, 19inch, 5mm wide, 8 grams, stunning jewellery piece, would make lovely present £190 01704831977

FRUIT BOWLS carlton ware yellow fruit basket weave moulded 6 1/2" dessert bowls c1930 VGC x8 £6 each 07790791733

FOOTBALL MEMORABILIA Wanted Shirts Programmes Ticket Stubs Etc Cash paid 07773242918

MISC

EMPTY VHS cases-40 in total: 30 transparent ones/10 black (opaque) £3 the lot. Collection from Aughton or Skelmersdale. 07562109069/07821417560

CHILDREN'S SCOOTERS x2, £3 each or £5 for both. Stepladders, 4 steps plus platform £5 each. Electric tile cutter £10 07934 496817

CARBOOT ITEMS Over 60 car boot items including some new, also 20 items of quality clothes £35 07387439004

MISC

CARBOOT ITEMS Over 60 car boot items including some new stuff, also 20 items of good quality clothes. £35 07387439004

CALVIN KLEIN Calvin Klein Truth 100 ml edt spray for men. used but nearly full bottle. £10 07467098657

BEREAVMENT ITEMS Numerous items including, curtains, table lamp, occasional tables, oil heater, speakers. Royal Dalton figures, new small items also. From £5 07387439004

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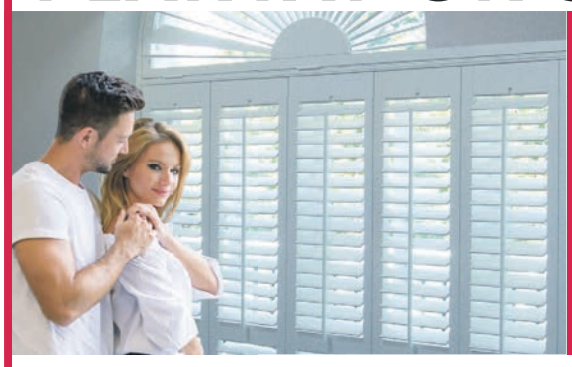

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MISC

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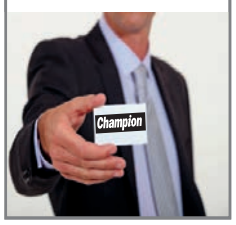

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BIRTHDAYS

STEPH MORGAN

10th January

30th Birthday!

Happy 30th Birthday to our very own little Princess!

Love you millions from Mum, Ash, Keira, Kalvin, Kristina, Mike, Millie, Grandma, Aunty Nikki & Family xxx

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CLARK RITA

The family would like to thanks all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind messages of sympathy, cards, flowers and donations received during their recent sad loss. Special thanks to Linda, Kathy and Paul for their care and support over the years. Thanks also to the Beaufort Care home for their care of mum, Carol Edwards for a lovely service and to H Hardman & Co., Funeral Directors for their dignified funeral arrangements.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

OLVERSON FRED

Sheila & Kathy would like to thank everyone who attended the funeral of their beloved Fred. Also, everyone's kind messages of condolence, flowers and donations to Queenscourt Hospice. And special thanks to Sally and all at M.L.S. Funeral Directors for their excellent support.

QUINN CAROL

Tony, Andrew, Michael, Helen and their families, would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for all the sympathy cards, messages of condolence, and donations for Cancer Research, received during their recent sad loss of Carol, The attendance at the funeral service and the support of many has been greatly appreciated. Thanks also to Rev. Andrew Housley for his kind words and prayers and to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors for their dignified funeral arrangements.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

RUSSELL ARTHUR

Jean, Suzanne and Family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for all the cards, kind message's of condolence and donations to the North West Ambulance service during their recent very sad loss, also thanks to Craven Funeral Directors for the dignified funeral arrangements.

God Bless You All.

IN MEMORIAM

MOON JEAN

Who passed away
14th January 2018

Remembering Mum with love,
who we lost
2 years ago.
There are no tomorrows for us to share,
But yesterdays memories will always be there.

Never more than a thought away.

Love
Deborah, Jasmine and Elliot.
Ian and Family.
xxxx

PEDEN GLADYS FRANCES

2 Years Today
16th January 2018

Our hearts still ache with sadness,
And many tears still flow,
What it meant to lose you, no one will ever know.
We hold you close within our hearts,
And there you will remain
To walk with us throughout our lives
Until we meet again.
We miss you
From your loving Daughters – Cath, Lin, Deb and San,
Son-in laws,
Grandchildren and
Great Grandchildren
XXXX

DEATHS

MARTLAND ALICE

11th January 2020
Peacefully
aged 93 years
of Ormskirk

The dearly loved Wife of the late Bill, loving Sister of Betty (deceased) and Doris (deceased) and Sister in law of Fred (deceased) and Gordon (deceased). Alice will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Funeral service at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 23rd January 2020 at 2:40pm.
All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

STAFFORD ALBERT THOMAS (ALLY)

4th January 2020
In hospital after a long illness
aged 87 years
of Skelmersdale

The dearly loved Husband of the late Ella, a loving Dad , Grandad and Great Grandad. Requiem Mass at St Francis of Assisi RC Church, Skelmersdale on Friday 17th January 2020 at 12:45pm followed by cremation at St Helens Crematorium.
Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Dementia UK.
All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors Tel: 01695 722122/720012

To place a family **announcement** please call **01704 392392** or visit **champnews.com**

DEATHS

JONES GARETH WYNNE GRIFFITHS

Formerly Head of Modern Languages at the Language College at Greenbank High School. Peacefully at home on 1st January 2020 after a long illness, borne with courage & dignity. Dearly loved Husband of Barbara. Devoted Father of David and Elizabeth. A loving Grandpa of Rhiannon, Glyn, Amy and William. Gareth will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service and Committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Saturday 18th January 2020 at 11.00 am. Family flowers only by request please but the family are gratefully receiving donations for Queenscourt Hospice.Further enquiries please to Moisters Funeralcare, 8 Station Rd, Ainsdale PR8 3HS Tel 01704 575282

GRIERSON JOSEPH ANTHONY (TONY)

30th December 2019
Aged 94 Years

Died peacefully at Elm House Nursing Home. Dearly beloved Husband of Milly. Deeply missed by his loving family, Veronica, Austin, Alan, Katherine, David, Cara, Riain, Zelie, Gordon, Christine and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 23rd January at 10:40am. Donations are being collected in lieu of flowers for Elm House Nursing Home.

Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

MAGEE ENID

7th January 2020
Peacefully at
Elm House Care Home surrounded by her family,
aged 88 years
of Skelmersdale

A much loved Mum, Nan, Grandma and Sister, now re-united with her Husband Bob. Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium on Tuesday 21st January 2020 at 12 noon. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for The Royal Osteoporosis Society or The National Autistic Society.
All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors Tel: 01695 722122/720012

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HODGSON CATHERINE (BATES)

11/01/1937-
04/01/2020

Loving and adored Mum of Jacqueline, John and Andrew and Son and Daughters in law Mark, Fay and Eileen. Adored Grandma to Tom, Hannah, Rae, Djon, Jake and Jacey and Great Grandma, will be very sadly missed by all who knew her. Family flowers only by request please, any donations if desired to Wigan Royal Albert Hospital, ASU, Billinge Ward
Funeral to be held at St Helens Crematorium on Thursday 23rd January 2020 at 11:00am
All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors Tel: 01695 722122/720012

DEATHS

MEADOWS ELSIE (NEE BLAGBROUGH)

Peacefully at home on 28th December 2019
Aged 95 years

The funeral will take place at Thornton Crematorium on Friday 31st January at 11:20am

Family flowers only. Donations if desired to WaterAid (www.wateraid.org.uk)

c/o H. Leslie Humphreys, 69 Liverpool Road, Crosby, Liverpool L23 5SE Tel: 0151 924 4805

ROWE JEAN (MARY)

22nd December 2019
Aged 97 years

Devoted Wife of the late Cecil Pierre, much loved Mother of Angela and Michael.

Service at Southport Crematorium on Wednesday 22nd January at 10:40am.

Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086

BEALE BRIAN RICHARD

5th January 2020
Peacefully at
Aaron Crest Nursing Home
aged 74 years
of Skelmersdale

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.
Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium on Monday 20th January 2020 at 4:00pm.
All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., INdependent Family Funeral Directors Tel: 01695 722122/720012

DEATHS

BURTMORE JOHN EDWARD

passed away peacefully in hospital on the
29th December
Aged 82 years

Dearly loved Brother of Edna, Brother in Law of Alan, Nieces Janet, Louise and family.
Reunited with dear Mum, Dad and Sister Jean.
Funeral to be held at Walton Lea Crematorium on Friday 24th January at 3pm

THOMAS ALAN

25th December 2019
Aged 68 Years

Died suddenly after a tragic accident in London.
Alan will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.
Service at Southport Crematorium on Friday 31st January at 12:00pm. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for The Salvation Army, Southport.

Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

OLDFIELD ALICE Nee Roberts

4th January 2020
Peacefully aged 92 Years

Devoted Wife of the late Jim, Mum to Jan and a much-loved Auntie to her Nieces. Funeral Service is to be held at St. Giles Church, Aintree on Thursday 23rd January 2020 at 1:00pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to St. Joseph's Hospice, Thornton.
For all enquiries please contact Graham J. Clegg Funeral Service, 7 Dover Road, Maghull, L31 5JB Tel 0151 520 3330

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DEATHS

ASHCROFT ELIZABETH (BETTY)

31st December 2019
Peacefully in hospital
aged 85 years

Devoted Mum of Jackie, Steven, Peter, Barry, Lesley and Alison. Dear Mother in law of Gail. Cherished Nan of Gary, Paul, Jane, Stephen, Harry, Amelia, Jack and Owen. Great Nan of Chelsea, Jack, Mya, Marley and Eva. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Thursday 16th January at 4pm. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for Birch Green Care Home.
All enquiries
Margaret Whitelam
Skelmersdale
Funeral Service
29/31 Sandy Lane
Tel: 01695 559868

DEATHS

ASHCROFT ELIZABETH (BETTY)

31st December 2019
Sadly passed away peacefully in hospital
Aged 85

There is a corner in our hearts Mum, you can visit every day, it gives us this warm feeling, that you're never far away.

You're at peace now Mum. Good night, God bless and rest in peace.
Forever in our hearts.

Broken hearted Son
Steven and
Daughter-in-law Gail
xxx

ASHCROFT ELIZABETH (BETTY)

Rest In Peace Nan Ashy
31/12/2019 age 85

Dearly loved Nan, forever in our hearts.
Jane,John
Great Grandchildren
Chelsea, Jack, Marley & Eva xXx

DEATHS

ASHCROFT ELIZABETH VERONICA

Mum we little new the day that God was going to call you home.
In life we loved you dearly,
in death we do the same.

It broke our hearts to lose you,
but you didn't go alone, for part of us went with you the day God called you home.

You left us peaceful memories,
your love is still our guide and though we cannot see you,
you are always at our side.

Our family chain is broken and nothing seems the same, but as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again.

"Goodnight and God Bless."

Loving Daughter
Jackie

XX

DEATHS

ASHCROFT ELIZABETH

Passed away peacefully in hospital on the 31st December
Aged 85 years

God saw you getting tired
A cure was not to be
So he put his arms around you
and whispered "Come with me"
With tearful eyes we watched you suffer
and saw you fade away.
Although we loved you dearly we could not make you stay.
A golden heart stopped beating
hard working hands at rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us he only takes the best.

Heartbroken Son
Peter and Andrea

XX

DEATHS

ASHCROFT ELIZABETH VERONICA

(NANA MOON)

Our Nana Moon has flown the nest
where Angels fly a legends crest,
though within our hearts with so much room,
to live forever our Nana Moon.
She had her quirks, we've seen them all, i was Barry, Harry then Gary after all,
as sadness dances with celebration in tune,
now a righteous good night for our Nana Moon.

"Goodnight and God Bless Nan"

Love Gary and Paul

XX

DEATHS

ASHCROFT ELIZABETH VERONICA

If roses grow in Heaven Lord
please pick a bunch for me,
place them in my Mum's arms
and tell her they are from me.

Tell her i love her and miss her
and when she turns to smile,
place a kiss upon her cheek and hold her for a while.

Because remembering her is easy,
i do it every day,
but there is an ache within my heart that will never go away.

"Goodnight and God Bless."

Your devoted
Daughter

Les

XX

Want to place a family announcement?
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DEATHS

MOOK PAT

7th January 2020
Aged 82 Years

Died peacefully after a short illness.
Loving mum of Paul, Tracy and Kelly.
Cherished Grandma and Great Grandma to all of her Grandchildren.
Much loved Sister of Lynne. Pat will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.
Service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 27th January at 1:20pm. Donations are being collected in lieu of flowers for Queenscourt Hospice.
Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors,
1-5 Roe Lane,
Southport, PR9 9DR.
Telephone:
01704 500086.

DEATHS

FALLS-HAND THELMA

November 2nd 1925 to January 10th 2020

Thelma passed away peacefully with her family by her side and in the wonderful care of Westcliffe Manor Nursing Home, at last reunited with her beloved Husband Harry.
Thelma was a treasured Mother to Mandy, Tessa, Nigel and Melanie and a wonderful Gabby to her Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.
The funeral service will be held at St John's Church, St John's Road, Birkdale (PR8 4JP) at 12 noon on Monday 20th January. Family flowers only please. Donations may be sent to Thelma and Harry's favourite charity: Queenscourt Hospice, Southport.
All enquiries about the funeral arrangements should be made to Broadbent and Seddons,
33 Liverpool Road,
Birkdale
Tel:01704 778143.

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CLARKE TERENCE PATRICK

Suddenly Died
3rd January 2020.
Aged 86 years

Father to James. Husband to The Late Catherine. Father in law to Elaine. Grandfather to Gary and Shaun. Brother to Joan, Kath, Marie and Brian.

Funeral service to take place Tuesday 21st January 2020 at St Benet's Church at 11:15am. Followed by committal at Thornton Crematorium at 12:40pm. Family flowers only.
All enquires to
The Co-op
Funeralcare,
Netherton.
Tel: 0151 525 4881

NELSON JOHN RUSSELL

Passed away peacefully after a short illness on the 29th December 2019, aged 87 years

The dearly loved Husband of Kath, dear Brother to Jim and Hazel, loving Father of David, Val, Judy, and Chris, and much-loved Grandad and Great-Grandad. John will be sadly missed by both family and many friends including the Formby Church community.
The Funeral service will take place at St. Lukes Church Formby, on Monday 27th January 2020 at 11:30am followed by a private committal at Southport crematorium for immediate family. Family flowers only please, but donations may be made, if so desired, in favour of the RNLI c/o Coyne Bros,
3 Old Mill Lane,
Formby L37 3PE.
Tel 01704 873899.

SIGGINS FRED

2nd January 2020
Aged 97 years

Passed away peacefully at Derwent Lodge Nursing Home, Wirral

Loving Husband to Lillia. Father to John and Geoff and special 'Nonno' to Jennifer, Daniel and Matthew and to Thomas, Daisy-Mae and Michael.
He will be greatly missed. Funeral service at Thornton Crematorium on Friday 24th January at 12:40pm.
Family flowers only please but donations, if desired to Alzheimer's Research UK.
Further enquiries to Graham J Clegg Funeral Service,
7 Dover Road,
Maghull, Merseyside,
L31 5JB.
Tel: 0151 520 3330

Announcements

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DEATHS

PYE WILLIAM DAVID (DAVE)

7th January 2020
Peacefully in hospital
aged 74 years

Devoted Husband of the late Janet. Loving Brother of Dorothy, a dear Uncle of Mark, Helen and Lynn and Great Uncle of Megan, Oliver and Adam. Will be sadly missed by his family and friends. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Wednesday 22nd January at 10am. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for British Heart Foundation.
All enquiries to Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695 559868

Want to place a family announcement? Visit champnews.com

GOSLING KEN

1st January 2020
Passed away peacefully at home
aged 88 Years

Dearly loved Husband of Ann. Devoted Father of Andrew and Jane and much loved Grandad of Jamie, Jennifer, Emily and Henry. Funeral Service at St. Michael's Church, Church Lane, Aughton, L39 6SB on Friday 24th January 2020 at 2.00pm, followed by committal at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough. Family flowers only by request, donations if so desired for Queenscourt Hospice.

Donations and further enquiries please to Sally Hunter, MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 5DZ. Tel: 01695 424888

VINCENT GEORGINA

Passed away peacefully at Beaufort Care Home
2nd January 2020
aged 77 years

Much loved Wife of the late Dougie. Much loved Mum of Gillian, Janet and David. Dear Mother-in-Law of Peter, Paul and Kath. Loving Grandma of Donna, Kevin, Marc, Rachael, Laura, Leanne, Emma and Joe. Devoted Great Grandmother to her Great Grandchildren. Gina will be sadly missed by all her family, friends and all who knew her. Funeral Service and Committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Friday 24th January 2020 at 2pm. Family flowers only by request please but the family are gratefully receiving donations for the British Lung Foundation.

Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5UU Tel: 01704 897770.

LEECH NADINE MARGARET Nee Pyne

Passed away peacefully on 12th December 2019

Beloved Wife of Bryan and loving Mother of Clive and Adrian. Funeral Service and committal will take place at Southport Crematorium on Friday 24th January 2020 at 11:20 am. Family flowers only by request please, but donations are being gratefully received by the family for Cancer Research UK. Further enquiries please to Moisters Funeralcare, 25a Sefton Street, Southport, PR8 6SG. Telephone: 01704 501501.

PARKER SHEILA MARY

27th December 2019
Aged 89 years

Devoted Wife of the late Michael, much loved Mother to Adrian, Howard and Robert, Mother-in-Law to Liz, Deborah and Jacqueline, dear Grandma to Lauren, Michelle, Hannah, Amy, Sarah. Olivia, Emma, James and Great Grandma to Polly Joan and Sybil. She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Ormskirk, L40 7SP on Wednesday 22nd January at 1.00 pm

Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DOBSON KEVIN THOMAS

After a long illness passed away peacefully
3rd January 2020
aged 56 years

Dearly loved Son of Rosa Stringman. Much loved Dad of Emma and Sarah. Loving Brother of Paul, Kerry and the late Mark (Dobo). A much loved Uncle of Mair, Richard, Amy, Danielle, Jemma, Beth, Holly, Andrew and Charlotte. Kevin will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service and Committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Tuesday 21st January 2020 at 11am. Family flowers only by request please but the family are gratefully receiving donations for The Mouth Cancer Foundation. Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5UU Tel 01704 897770.

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Marlborough House, Witham Road SKELMERSDALE, 01695 722122 / 720012
Elizabeth House, 57a Cottage Lane ORMSKIRK, 01695 581769
SCARISBRICK, 01704 892191

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- Back Lane, Mere Avenue, Mere Court, Moss Nook, Red Cat Lane
- Colburne Close, Liverpool Road North, Lord Street, School Lane, Smithy Walk

NEW LANE
- New Lane

SHIRDLEY HILL
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HASKAYNE
- Chisnall Brook Close, Jacksons Close, Kings Close, Plumb Court, Queens Green, Riding Close, Riding Lane, School Lane, Sumner Avenue, Woods Close

AUGHTON
- Black Moss Lane, Hallmoor Close, New Lane, Scarth Hill Lane, Scarth Hill Mansions

ORMSKIRK
- County Road, Croftson Avenue, High Lane, Yew Tree Road
- Bath Springs, Bath Springs Court, Derby Street, Moor Street, Norfield, Railway Approach, Railway Road, Stanley Street, Station Approach, West View
- Knowsley Road, St. Helens Road

RUFF LANE
- Beech Meadow, Blairgowrie Gardens, Mill Gardens, Mill Street, Millers Court, Milton Drive, Normanhurst, Ruff Lane, Weldon Drive, Windmill Avenue, Woodlands Close

NEWBURGH
- Ash Brow, Clovelly Drive, Cobbs Brow Lane, Doe Meadow, Ranleigh Drive, Smithy Brow, The Hawthorns
- Acrefield, Doe Meadow, Pine Close, Tabbys Nook, Woodrow Drive

DIGMOOR
- Bankfield, Banksbarn, Blythewood
- Beavers Way, Birleywood, Blakehall
- Belfield, Birkrig

OLD SKELMERSDALE
- Wigan Road, Windgate, Windrows
- Barnes Road, Whitburn

ASHURST
- Lambourne, Larkhill, Lyndhurst

BIRCH GREEN
- Fairlie, Fairstead, Heathgate
- Inglewhite
- Inskip, Inskip Court, Irwell

UPHOLLAND
- Alma Close, Alma Court, Alma Hill, Alma Parade, Alma Road, Alma Walk, Brookfield Road, Douglas Avenue, Green Haven, Hall Green, Hall Green Close, Heatherlea Close, Tower Hill Road, Wellcross Road

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LOTTERY RESULTS

JOSPICE LOTTERY WINNERS
Friday 10th January 2020

£1000.....Mrs Fessey, Netherton
£250..... Miss Rushton, Bootle
£100..... Mrs Jamieson, Moreton

Plus 15 other winners of £10 each

QUEENSCOURT LOTTERY DRAW RESULTS

This week's £1,500 Prize Winner lives in Bootle

£1,500 = 338891 £100 = 32135

Winners of £20 are as follows:

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20583	12360
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150110	36916
119072	28900
124586	19924
10301	20785

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PROPERTY WANTED

PUBLIC NOTICES

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Hoods (Uk) Military Mart Ltd of Unit 2 County Road Business Park, County Road, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 3LY is applying to change an existing licence as follows to add an operating centre to keep 1 goods vehicle and 1 trailers at Unit 5 Ringtail Road, Burscough, Lancashire, L40 8SY.
Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(MEADOW LANE, LATHOM, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2019
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.
1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle or cycle to proceed over that length of Meadow Lane, Lathom from Daisy Lane, Lathom to Bleak Lane, Lathom.
2. Nothing in this order shall apply to persons engaged in the carrying out of the works.
3. The prohibition will be operative from 0005 hours until 0530 hours on Wednesday 22nd January 2020 or until completion of the works within this period.
4. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Bleak Lane, Lathom – Wood Lane, Lathom – Hoscar Moss Road, Ivy House Farm, Lathom – Ring O Bells Lane, Lathom – Carr Lane, Lathom – Daisy Lane, Lathom and vice versa.
The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow level crossing servicing works to be carried out by Centurion Site Services on behalf of Network Rail.
Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Highways and Transport, 0300 123 6780 [Ref: HRiT/20912/EW]

www.lancashire.gov.uk Lancashire County Council

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(U646 HILLOCK LANE, PARBOLD, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2020
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.
1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of U646 Hillock Lane, Parbold from C163 Lees Lane, Dalton for a distance of 350m in a South Westerly direction.
2. Nothing in this order shall apply to persons engaged in the carrying out of the works.
3. The prohibition will be operative from 0800 hours on Monday 20th January 2020 until 1700 hours on Wednesday 22nd January 2020 or until completion of the works within this period.
4. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- U646 Hillock Lane, Parbold – C161 Higher Lane, Parbold – A5209 Alder Lane, Parbold – A5209 Parbold Hill, Parbold – A5209 Sparrow Hill, Parbold – A5209 Hall Lane, Appley Bridge – B5375 Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge – B5375 Appley Lane South, Appley Bridge – C163 Lees Lane, Roby Mill – C163 Lees Lane, Dalton and vice versa.
The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow joint bay excavation and road crossing works to install a HV cable to be carried out by Gallagher Ltd on behalf of Electricity North West.
Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Highways and Transport, 0300 123 6780 [Ref: HRiT/21794/EW]

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LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(U477 DEANS LANE, NEWBURGH, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2019
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.
1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle or cycle to proceed over that length of Deans Lane, Newburgh from a point approximately 490m from its junction with Frog Lane, Lathom for a distance of approximately 40m in a Southerly direction.
2. Nothing in this order shall apply to persons engaged in the carrying out of the works.
3. The prohibition will be operative from 0005 hours until 0530 hours on Tuesday 21st January 2020 or until completion of the works within this period.
4. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- U477 Deans Lane, Newburgh – U477 Deans Lane, Lathom – C164 Hoscar Moss Road, Ivy House Farm – C164 Ring O Bells Lane, Lathom – A5209 Briars lane, Lathom – A5209 Lowry Hill Lane, Lathom – A5209 Course Lane, Newburgh – Back Lane, Newburgh – Deans Lane, Newburgh and vice versa.
The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow level crossing service and general maintenance works to be carried out by Centurion Site Services on behalf of Network Rail.
Authority given for this Order to be made:
Peter Bell, Regulation and Enforcement Manager, Highways and Transport, 0300 123 6780 [Ref: HRiT/20820/EW]

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LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(U646 HILLOCK LANE, PARBOLD, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2020
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.
1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of U646 Hillock Lane, Parbold from C163 Lees Lane, Dalton for a distance of 350m in a South Westerly direction.
2. Nothing in this order shall apply to persons engaged in the carrying out of the works.
3. The prohibition will be operative from 0800 hours on Monday 20th January 2020 until 1700 hours on Wednesday 22nd January 2020 or until completion of the works within this period.
4. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- U646 Hillock Lane, Parbold – C161 Higher Lane, Parbold – A5209 Alder Lane, Parbold – A5209 Parbold Hill, Parbold – A5209 Sparrow Hill, Parbold – A5209 Hall Lane, Appley Bridge – B5375 Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge – B5375 Appley Lane South, Appley Bridge – C163 Lees Lane, Roby Mill – C163 Lees Lane, Dalton and vice versa.
The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow joint bay excavation and road crossing works to install a HV cable to be carried out by Gallagher Ltd on behalf of Electricity North West.
Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Highways and Transport, 0300 123 6780 [Ref: HRiT/21794/EW]

www.lancashire.gov.uk Lancashire County Council

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15
APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION
2019/1155/FUL Installation of a prefabricated office building plus the erection of a cross dock shelter over part of the existing yard to ensure existing yard operations can be continued whilst being protected from the elements, including alterations to the car park at Graylaw Freight Group Ltd, Gillibrands Road, Skelmersdale.
2019/1265/FUL Demolition of rear porch. Conversion of former bank to A3 and A4 use, including side extension. Conversion of first floor to a 2 bed apartment. Side extension and glazed link to form 2 No. retail units (A1 and A2 use) and 1 No. 2 bed apartment at first floor. Associated external works, including extended parking area at Scarisbrick House, 4 The Common, Parbold.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e-mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development, Heritage & Environment Manager, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 24 days* of the date of this notice quoting the application number.
*17 days in the case of applications for Permission in Principle.
Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
If an appeal is made against a decision to refuse to grant planning permission, and that appeal proceeds under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.
How information about you will be used
Personal data provided by you will be used as part of the Council's statutory planning duties. Some of this information, including your name and address, will be published. Further information about this is available online at www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning and hard copies are available on request.
Heidi McDougall BSc (Hons), MBA Dated: 15th January 2020
Corporate Director of Place & Community PDNOT1074

West Lancashire Borough Council
Village Shop Rate Relief Scheme
[Local Government and Rating Act 1997]

Under the provisions of the above Act the Council has produced an updated draft Rural Settlement List (the List) which identifies any rural settlement which is wholly or partly within the designated rural area (as specified by the Secretary of State).
The List is available for public inspection, free of charge at the Offices of West Lancashire Borough Council, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk
until, **31/03/2021 on Mondays to Thursdays from 9.00am to 5.00pm,**
Fridays from 9.00am to 4.45pm
The List will take effect from 1/4/2020
Any qualifying Post Office, General Store, Food Store, Public House or Petrol Filling Station situated within a rural settlement as identified on the List, may be entitled to either Mandatory or Discretionary rate relief under this scheme. For application forms for rate relief, general information and advice please contact the Business Rates Team at the offices of West Lancashire Borough Council.
Dated: 15 January 2020

Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey
Chief Operating Officer
West Lancashire Borough Council
52 Derby Street, Ormskirk
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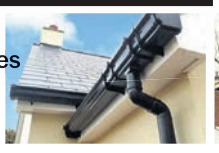

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Prices for the new AMG model start at £48,665, with the first cars due to land in the North West early this summer.

Right The new AMG GLB is closely related to the current A-Class

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This display of classic cars was one of the big draws at the Leisure Lakes back in 2017

I loved Tarleton's show - where a shed-load of nostalgia was enough!

LIFE ON CARS
with DAVID SIMISTER
www.lifeoncars.co.uk

BURNOUTS in brand new McLarens. Gourmet grub from TV chefs, and evening performances from prog rock bands. The Leisure Lakes Steam & Vintage Vehicle Rally had none of these things - and was all the better for it.

I've been to plenty of car shows that have had all sorts of clever gimmicks – and the eye-watering ticket prices to go with them – so it was always refreshing to park up at Tarleton's annual motoring bash and revel in a show delightfully devoid of pretentious add-ons; you got shedloads of nostalgia, some stands from community organisations, a couple of old fairground rides borrowed for the weekend, and that was about it.

It wasn't, as the name rightly suggests, even a car show – it was the Leisure Lakes Steam & Vintage Vehicle Rally, which meant that you were as likely to see a lovingly maintained steam traction engine or an old David Brown tractor as you were a Ford Prefect or an Austin Cambridge.

In fact – keep this quiet, as I know this is supposed to be a car-related column – I think Fred Dibnah's Land Rover might have been narrowly pipped to the post by the vast array of vintage lorries built up by the hugely impressive William Hunter Collection. Over the past decade or so this event's grown into a carefully curated overdose of motoring nostalgia, and I've loved every one of my outings.

So I was saddened to learn the other day that the organisers have decided to go out on a high after raising more than £330,000 for charity – not bad for a small-ish, volunteer-run event that's had to contend with date clashes with other events, venue switches, horrendous weather and waterlogged fields along the way.

In a letter put out on the show's website, the team behind it said that no one had stepped forward with offers to help out with the months of planning needing to organise the two-day show, so the team's decided to call it a day.

There are, of course, plenty of events going ahead later this summer if you love nothing more than a Sunday of peering wistfully at old Wolseleys – the Ormskirk MotorFest and Lydiate Classic Car Show to name just two – but the cancellation of the Leisure Lakes event definitely leaves a void as it had a wonderfully warm atmosphere all of its own.

I'm keeping my fingers crossed that some enterprising car nut decides to hold a vehicle rally of their own to plug the gap, because there's definitely an appetite in this part of the world for this sort of show, where you're as likely to hear the toot of a faded fairground organ or the chuff of a steam engine as you are the clatter of an old sidevalve engine.

My one request to whoever does, though – tell the companies hoping to flog overpriced gourmet grub and brand-new McLarens to do one.

We've got plenty of shows for them already…

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly

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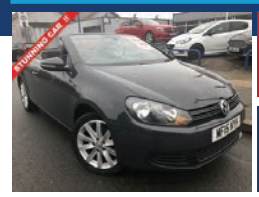

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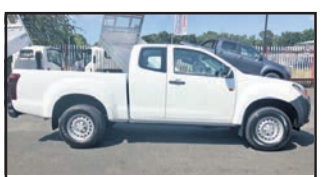
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68 Reg Vauxhall ASTRA 5dr 1.0t 105ps Sri Ecotec S/s, Mineral Black, 13174 Miles £11999
67 Reg Vauxhall ASTRA 5dr 1.4t 150ps Sri, Flip Chip Silver, 8416 Miles £11999
68 Reg Vauxhall CROSSLAND X 1.2t Ecotec 110ps SE S/s, Amber Orange, 13805 Miles £11999
68 Reg Vauxhall CROSSLAND X 1.2t Ecotec 110ps SE S/s, Lava Red, 10570 Miles £11999
68 Reg Vauxhall CROSSLAND X 1.2t Ecotec 110ps SE S/s, Olympic White, 10035 Miles £11999
19 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 3dr Hat 1.4 90ps Energy A/c, Persian Blue, Miles £12499
66 Reg Vauxhall MOKKA X Hat 1.4t 140ps Active Au, Boracay Blue, 18982 Miles £12499
17 Reg Vauxhall MOKKA X Hat 1.4t 140ps Elite S/s, Amber Orange, 12559 Miles £12499
67 Reg Vauxhall INSIGNIA G/sp 1.5t 165 Design, Dark Moon Blue, 12274 Miles £12499
17 Reg Vauxhall ZAFIRA Tourer 1.4i Vvt 140 Turbo Sri, Flip Chip Silver, 10039 Miles £12799
69 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 3dr Hat 1.4 90ps Griffin S/s, Sovereign Silver, 2584 Miles £12999
68 Reg Vauxhall ASTRA 5dr 1.4t 150ps Sri Nav, Cosmic Grey, 21848 Miles £12999
18 Reg Vauxhall MOKKA X Hat 1.4t 140ps Active Ecotec S/s, Coppertino, 6267 Miles £13499
18 Reg Vauxhall MOKKA X Hat 1.4t 140ps Active Ecotec S/s, Quantum Grey, 4062 Miles £13999
19 Reg Vauxhall CROSSLAND X 1.2 83ps Elite Nav, Persian Blue, 1478 Miles £13999
67 Reg Vauxhall ZAFIRA Tourer 1.4t 140 Elite Nav, Blue, 20432 Miles £13999
68 Reg Vauxhall GRANDLAND X 1.5 Turbo D 130ps SE, Quartz Grey, 20730 Miles £14499
67 Reg Vauxhall INSIGNIA G/sp 1.5t 165 Sri Vxln Nav, Sovereign Silver, 18955 Miles £14499
19 Reg Vauxhall MOKKA X Hat 1.4t 140 Dsgn Nav Ecotec S/s, Mineral Black, 3165 Miles £14999
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Cash Deposit:	£4999.00	Interest Rate (fixed)	5.74%
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Cash Price:	£19490.00	APR	5.9%
Cash Deposit:	£1949.00	Interest Rate (fixed)	5.73%
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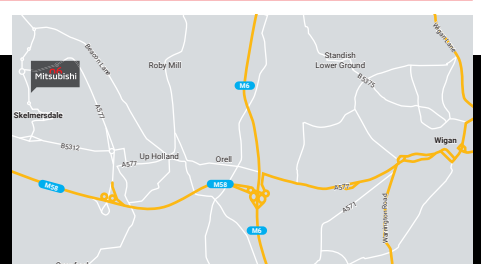

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CORSA 1.4 SE 5 DR 16 REG 33,000 miles in flame red, IntelliLink, front & rear park assist, alloys, DAB radio, heated front seats & steering wheel, cruise, Bluetooth, heated windscreen – FSH & supplied by ourselves - £30 road tax..... **£6,995**

MOKKA X

*** MOKKA X 1.4 TURBO ACTIVE AUTO 5 DR 18 REG** 2,000 miles in Boracay blue metallic, IntelliLink, Bluetooth, alloys, cruise, DAB radio, front & rear park assist, climate, FSH **£13,650**

*** MOKKA X 1.4 TURBO ACTIVE 5 DR 68 REG** 9,000 miles in Boracay blue metallic, IntelliLink, Bluetooth, alloys, cruise, DAB radio, front & rear park assist, climate **£12,250**

*** MOKKA X 1.6 DESIGN NAV 5 DR 17 REG** 17,000 miles in burnt orange metallic, SAT NAV, IntelliLink, Bluetooth, alloys, cruise, DAB radio, front & rear park assist, climate – FSH..... **£10,995**

OTHER MAKES

*** VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDi SE NAVIGATION 5 DR 18 REG** 23,000 miles in tungsten silver metallic, SAT NAV, Bluetooth, front & rear park assist, alloys, cruise, climate – balance of 3 yr VW warranty..... **£18,495**

LANDROVER DEFENDER 110 2.4 TDi HARDTOP 4x4 STATION WAGON 5 DR (7 SEATER) 10 REG 69,000 miles in silver blue with cream wheels, DAB radio/CD, towbar, spotless, 12 months MOT..... **£17,995**

*** AUDI Q3 2.0 TDi S LINE NAVIGATION 5 DR 66 REG** 22,000 miles in grey metallic, SAT NAV, Bluetooth, DAB radio, alloys, climate, rear park assist, spare wheel – FSH & £30 road tax..... **£17,150**

*** AUDI Q3 1.4 TFSi SE S TRONIC (AUTO) 5 DR 66 REG** 24,000 miles in hainen blue metallic, Bluetooth, alloys, DAB radio, climate, rear park assist, spare wheel– FSH.. **£16,750**

*** VW GOLF 1.5 SE NAV TSi 5 DR 68 REG** 8,000 miles in tornado red, SAT NAV, alloys, cruise, aircon, front & rear park assist, spare wheel – balance of 3 yr VW warranty **£16,495**

*** BMW X1 2.0 18d xLINE sDRIVE 5 DR 16 REG** 21,000 miles in white with cream leather & heated front seats, SAT NAV, Bluetooth, alloys, aircon, DAB radio, rear park assist - FSH, £20 road tax..... **£15,995**

*** BMW 2 SERIES 218d LUXURY 2.0 TD (DIESEL) AUTO 5 DR 67 REG** 15,000 miles in grey metallic, SAT NAV, cream leather, Bluetooth, DAB radio, alloys, rear park assist, aircon – FSH and balance of 3 year BMW warranty..... **£15,795**

*** AUDI A4 1.4 SE TFSi 4 DR 67 REG** 17,000 miles in white, Bluetooth, alloys, cruise, climate, front & rear park assist – balance of 3 yr Audi warranty **£15,495**

*** HYUNDAI TUCSON 1.6 SE NAV GDi (PETROL) 5 DR 18 REG** 5,000 miles in grey metallic, SAT NAV, Bluetooth, alloys, climate, cruise, heated front seats, rear park assist & camera - FSH & balance of 5 yr Hyundai warranty..... **£14,995**

*** HYUNDAI TUCSON 1.6 SE NAV GDi (PETROL) 5 DR 18 REG** 14,000 miles in cherry red metallic, SAT NAV, Bluetooth, alloys, climate, cruise, heated front seats, rear park assist & camera - FSH & balance of 5 yr Hyundai warranty..... **£13,995**

*** RENAULT KADJAR 1.3 TCE (PETROL) ENERGY DYNAMIQUE S NAV 5 DR 68 REG** 13,000 miles in mercury silver metallic, SAT NAV, Bluetooth, front & rear park assist, DAB radio, alloys, cruise, balance of 3 year Renault warranty..... **£13,495**

*** HYUNDAI TUCSON 1.7 SE NAV CRDi 5 DR 66 REG** 22,000 miles in inca beach metallic, SAT NAV, Bluetooth, climate, cruise, DAB radio, alloys, heated front seats, reverse camera – balance of 5 yr Hyundai warranty, FSH & £30 road tax and 12 months MOT **£12,795**

*** PEUGEOT 2008 1.1 ALLURE PREMIUM 5 DR 19 REG** 10,000 miles in grey metallic, SAT NAV, Bluetooth, alloys, aircon, panoramic roof, cruise, DAB radio, rear park assist & camera – balance of 3 yr Peugeot warranty..... **£12,795**

HYUNDAI TUCSON 1.7 SE NAV CRDi 5 DR 66 REG 29,000 miles in grey metallic, SAT NAV, Bluetooth, alloys, climate, cruise, heated front seats, rear park assist & camera - £30 road tax – FSH & balance of 5 yr Hyundai warranty..... **£12,295**

*** KIA SPORTAGE 1 1.6 GDi (PETROL) 130 5 DR 66 REG** 7,000 miles in white, Bluetooth, alloys, aircon, cruise, DAB radio – FSH, Sept MOT & balance of 7 yr Kia warranty .. **£11,695**

*** RENAULT CAPTUR 0.9 TCe ICONIC 5 DR 68 REG** 9,000 miles in flame red metallic with black roof, SAT NAV, Bluetooth, alloys, rear park assist, climate, cruise, space saver wheel – balance of 3 yr Renault warranty..... **£11,295**

*** AUDI A1 1.0 SPORT TFSi 5 DR 66 REG** 26,000 miles in white, Bluetooth, DAB radio, aircon – FSH, 12 months MOT & £0 road tax..... **£11,150**

*** RENAULT KADJAR 1.2 TCe DYNAMIQUE NAV 5 DR 66 REG** 11,000 miles in mercury silver metallic, SAT NAV, Bluetooth, alloys, climate, cruise – FSH & August MOT .. **£11,150**

NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCi TEKNA 5 DR 65 REG 50,000 miles in ink blue metallic, SAT NAV, Bluetooth, leather, heated front seats, parking camera, alloys, cruise, DAB radio – FSH with Nissan, £20 road tax & Oct 2020 MOT..... **£10,295**

JEEP RENEGADE 1.4 T LIMITED 5 DR 65 REG 35,000 miles in bright red, leather, heated front seats, SAT NAV, Bluetooth, cruise, front & rear park assist – service history & Sept MOT..... **£9,795**

*** PEUGEOT 2008 1.2 ALLURE 5 DR 66 REG** 23,000 miles in white, Bluetooth, rear park assist, cruise, DAB radio, climate, alloys – FSH and July MOT - £30 road tax **£9,195**

NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCi ACENTA PREMIUM 5 DR 64 REG 52,000 miles in ink blue metallic, SAT NAV, alloys, Bluetooth, DAB radio, cruise, panoramic roof, privacy glass, rear parking camera - 12 months MOT, £0 road tax & FSH..... **£8,995**

SEAT LEON 1.4 FR TSi with TECH PACK 5 DR 15 REG 48,000 miles in black metallic, SAT NAV, Bluetooth, DAB radio, front & rear park assist, alloys – FSH, 12 months MOT & £20 road tax..... **£8,795**

*** RENAULT CLIO 0.9 DYNAMIQUE NAV TCE 90 5 DR 18 REG** 8,000 miles in diamond black metallic, SAT NAV, Bluetooth, DAB radio, alloys, aircon, cruise - balance of 3 yr Renault warranty..... **£8,795**

*** HYUNDAI I30 1.4 SE (PETROL) BLUE DRIVE 5 DR 66 REG** 31,000 miles in silver metallic, Bluetooth, alloys, cruise, rear park assist – FSH & balance of 5 yr Hyundai warranty..... **£8,295**

JEEP RENEGADE 1.6 LONGITUDE (DIESEL) MULTIJET 5 DR 15 REG 49,000 miles in black, alloys, cruise, SAT NAV, Bluetooth, DAB radio - £30 road tax..... **£7,995**

MINI 1.6 COOPER S 3 DR 12 REG 56,000 miles in chilli red with black roof & bonnet stripes, 17" alloys, ½ leather, Bluetooth, DAB radio – supplied & serviced by ourselves & BMW, local owners, FSH & 12 months MOT..... **£6,295**

VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 EXCLUSIV AUTO 5 DR 65 REG 24,000 miles in waterworld blue metallic, Bluetooth, cruise, front & rear park assist – October MOT..... **£5,995**

MERCEDES SL280 AUTO CONVERTIBLE M REG 1994 90,000 miles in Silver with Grey leather, rear seats, detachable hard top (with stand) – June MOT - Owned by a friend of mine for the last 14 years (always garaged) - Lovely car with full service history.... **£5,750**

FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 5 DR 12 REG 47,000 miles in black, alloys, Bluetooth, DAB radio **£5,495**

SKODA YETI 2.0 S TDi CR (DIESEL) 5 DR 13 REG 77,000 miles in green metallic, alloys – FSH, just had clutch, flywheel & cambelt, supplied by ourselves..... **£5,495**

CITROEN DS3 1.6 DSTYLE E-HDi 3 DR 15 REG 49,000 miles in black with white roof, alloys – service history & £0 road tax - local car..... **£5,150**

QUALITY PART EXCHANGES

*** HYUNDAI I20 1.2 CLASSIC 3 DR 09 REG** just 26,000 miles in grey metallic – regularly serviced & 12 months MOT **£2,850**

VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 SRi CDTi 5 DR 58 REG 76,000 miles in silver metallic, alloys – service history & 12 months MOT **£2,795**

SEAT IBIZA 1.6 SPORT CR TDi 3 DR 59 REG 90,000 miles in bright blue, alloys – local car, recent cambelt, October MOT & £30 road tax..... **£2,495**

MAZDA 2 1.3 TS2 5 DR 09 REG 72,000 miles in silver metallic, alloys - 12 months MOT..... **£2,395**

PEUGEOT 107 1.0 URBAN 3 DR 08 REG 53,000 miles in yellow – FSH, serviced by ourselves, 12 months MOT & £20 road tax..... **£2,350**

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 DESIGN 3 DR SPORT HATCH 08 REG 88,000 miles in metro blue metallic, alloys – service history & 12 months MOT..... **£1,995**

PASSAT 2.0 TDi 4 DR 08 REG 146,000 miles in grey, alloys – service history, 12 months MOT, recent cambelt & turbo..... **£1,995**

SKODA SUPERB 2.5 V6 TDi AUTO 4 DR 07 REG 96,000 miles in titan grey metallic, alloys & leather – retired owner, service history & 12 months MOT – drives lovely..... **£1,595**

HONDA JAZZ 1.4 SE 5 DR 56 REG 121,000 miles in blue metallic – FSH & December 2020 MOT – drives very nice, it's a Honda!..... **£1,495**

TOYOTA YARIS 1.0 GLS 5 DR 51 REG 100,000 miles in dark green metallic – August MOT **£950**

IGNIS 1.3 GL 5 DR 53 REG 99,000 miles in silver metallic - couple of scratches on body but drives well & 12 months MOT..... **£895**

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Amount of Credit:	£15,644.94
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Total Amount Payable:	£18,839.18
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Optional Final Payment:	£6,378.00	Total Amount Payable:	£23,786.06
Cash Price:	£21,493.76	APR:	4.9%
Cash Deposit:	£499.00	Annual Mileage:	5,000
Deposit Allowance:	£3,750.00	Excess Mileage:	£0.09p/mile

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Optional Final Payment:	£5,767.00	Total Amount Payable:	£19,631.22
Cash Price:	£17,786.08	APR:	4.9%
Cash Deposit:	£499.00	Annual Mileage:	5,000
Deposit Allowance:	£4,000.00	Excess Mileage:	£0.09p/mile

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47 Monthly Payments:	£299.98	Total Charge for Credit:	£3,010.97
Optional Final Payment:	£10,021.00	Total Amount Payable:	£29,419.06
Cash Price:	£26,408.09	APR:	4.9%
Cash Deposit:	£299.00	Annual Mileage:	5,000
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George Lomax in action for Burscough

Funds raised for Linnets striker after leg break

A FUNDRAISING bid has been set-up to support Burscough striker George Lomax who suffered a career-threatening injury earlier this month.

The forward broke his leg during the second-half of their recent match against Ashton Athletic.

He could not be moved from the pitch and during the wait for an ambulance it was decided to call the match off.

Losing George Lomaxis a big blow for the Linnets, although they haven't scored many goals this season, the former Widnes player had scored in crucial victories for his team against both Whitchurch Alport and Hanley Town.

An online fundraising page has been set-up to raise £1,000 for Lomax.

A description of the page reads: "George had a career threatening injury fracturing is fibula and ligament damage resulting in surgery and a long lay off from work and football."

To donate, you should visit the website: www.gofundme.com and search for 'George Lomax'.

Home comforts could be key for Skem if they want to avoid relegation scrap

McNally won't want to be dragged into fight for survival

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

Skem boss Paul McNally and (below) the bottom five in the league

SKELMERSDALE United and Burscough both have plenty to do to avoid relegation as the sides continue to scrap for vital points in the second half of the season.

Because of structural changes brought about by the FA, only one team will be relegated from the North West Counties Premier Division, but it looks like it could down the wire.

Burscough are arguably in a more perilous position than Skelmersdale United, but either could find themselves in trouble by the end of the campaign.

Both made stuttering starts to the season and although they have both improved, they have found achieving consistency a problem.

What has made matters worse is that bottom placed club Litherland Remyca are showing signs of improvement and are now on level points with Burscough - and only five points behind Skelmersdale.

Now Skelmersdale United are in their new ground the whole club has received a boost, especially with the big attendance increase they have received.

They also have a string of home games between now and the end of the season and actually have a run of five consecutive home games during March.

Results have also followed and the general feeling is that they should be safe barring a big slump in fortunes.

However, Burscough are under more severe pressure as they have only won twice since November and only have seven home games left, plus they still have to face some of the top teams.

The final big worry is that they have to travel to play Litherland Remyca on the last day of the season in what could be a real crunch encounter.

Burscough will have played last night (Tuesday, January 14) away at Ashton Athletic and don't have another league game scheduled until they entertain Congleton Town on Saturday, January 25, then four out of their next five games are against teams currently placed in the top four places in the league. It is a tough period for the Linnets and could define their season.

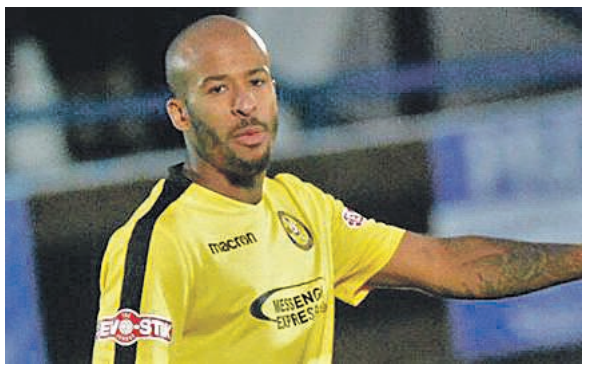
Skelmersdale are away to Squires Gate on Saturday, January 18 then they play runaway league leaders 1874 Northwich at the JMO ground at Blaguegate Lane on Saturday, January 25.

On form they have a fair chance of winning at Squires Gate and could cause problems to 1874 despite starting as underdogs.

Skelmersdale can probably fend off the relegation threat, but Burscough are under some real pressure.

North West Counties Premier Division (bottom places)

	Club	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
16	Skelmersdale United	21	5	5	11	34	40	-6	20
17	Hanley Town	22	5	5	12	31	50	-19	20
18	Padiham	22	5	4	13	23	42	-19	19
19	Burscough	22	4	3	15	18	55	-37	15
20	Litherland REMYCA	22	3	6	13	17	59	-42	15



Joel Douglas

Burscough bolster squad with two new forwards

BURSCOUGH may not have had a lot of matches in recent weeks but they have certainly been busy off the field after signing two new players.

Despite the Linnets suffering from a lack of matches in their fixtures schedule, behind the scenes they have been bolstering their squad with the capture of former Ashton Athletic, St Helens Town and Widnes striker Dale Korie-Butler.

Joining Korie-Butler at the Linnets is fellow-forward Joel Douglas, who has also played for St Helens Town as well as Skelmersdale United.

Dale Korie-Butler

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Offer applies to selected new vehicles ordered from 1st January 2020 and registered by 31st March 2020. Terms and Conditions apply. Finance subject to status. 18's and over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. SCRAPPAGE > Trade in your old car and get £2,000* off a KIA PICANTO KIA RIO £2,500* off a KIA STONIC KIA NIRO and KIA SPORTAGE. Scrappage saving available to private customers excluding Personal Contract Hire registering a Picanto, Rio, Stonic, Niro or Sportage between 01.01.2020 – 31.03.2020. This offer is conditional on the scrappage of a car or van, of any make, originally registered on or before 31.12.2012 and owned by the customer for at least three months prior to the new vehicle's registration date. The scrappage saving is in lieu of all other offers. Only one scrappage payment can be claimed for each vehicle scrapped. Offer subject to availability. Standard emissions and vehicle data. Chapel House are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for consumer credit purposes Chapel House Motor Co Ltd (ref 668178), Chapel House Southport Ltd (ref 683972) and is an Appointed Representative of AutoProtect (MBI) Ltd (ref 312143) for insurance mediation purposes. You can check this on the FCA website register.fca.org.uk/ or by contacting the FCA on 0800 111 6768. Chapel House is a Credit Broker and not a lender and work with a limited number of providers. Registered Office 603-609 Liverpool Road, Ainsdale, Southport, Merseyside PR8 3NG Registered in England1248452, 8437125 and 1376689